

## Message to spouses of 3ID soldiers

Dear spouses,  
I realize many of you are upset. I am too. I will also admit that when I heard the recent news about another delay in redeployment I was angry. I want my husband home just as you do. After 34 years of marriage, life just isn't the same when we're apart. He looks forward to returning home, just as his soldiers do. But there is a mission that must be accomplished.

Our grandson is crawling now and my husband has only met him once — when he was a few days old. He wanted to be with me during my recent surgery, but was in Iraq. There have been other family needs during this deployment, but my husband was with his other family - the soldiers.

The Army has come first on many occasions during our 32 years of this unique way of life. Our family accepts this because we understand his dedication to soldiers and believe that the defense of the United States and its ideals is an honorable endeavor.

Third Infantry Division soldiers and spouses have been disappointed on two recent occasions at changes in redeployment dates. Units were preparing for redeployment and spouses were making reunion plans. But I always say that the one thing we can count on in the Army is that things will change. Our nation's overall plan for our forces in Iraq is changing as the situation in Iraq changes. That has caused unexpected changes in 3ID redeployment dates.

Redeployment dates were issued to Family Readiness Groups, as soon as possible, in an attempt to control speculation and rumors, and inform spouses before the media informed the general public. Once soldiers begin getting equipment ready for redeployment, the media becomes aware that redeployment is beginning and speculations about return dates begin.

Unfortunately, the early release of redeployment dates and the subsequent changes have been the cause of bitter disappointment among many soldiers and spouses. Spouses have told us that they'd rather not know when their soldiers are returning than be disappointed again. At this point, I feel sure that request will be honored.

I wish I could think of words that would ease the disappointment of another extension of 3ID units in Iraq. I realize that some of the soldiers remaining in Iraq have been deployed close to a year and that the separation of families has been a stressful situation for a long time now.

See SPOUSES, Page 4A

# CG: Mission continues

## Army working to get replacement units

Master Sgt. Emma Krouser

3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) PA NCOIC

BAGHDAD, Iraq — With attacks against coalition forces increasing throughout Iraq, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers have been tasked to stay a little longer to help stabilize the country.

“For the spouses back home, I wish I could send their soldiers home — all of them home right now, but we cannot until our mission's finished here,” said Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commanding general. “The Army is working very hard to get a replacement unit in here to take our place. As soon as that unit is here, we'll be rotating our soldiers back home.”

That's not what the soldiers or their family members back at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield wanted to hear since some units have been here 10 months, but the mission is not complete, yet.

“The division has a mission over here. And as soon as our mission's done, we're going to get the soldiers home as quickly as possible. We're setting the conditions for that,” Blount said. “So as soon as the division's mission is finished, we can quickly get our soldiers back to Kuwait, then through Kuwait and back to Fort Stewart and Hunter. My first priority is to keep the soldiers safe, and I'm working hard on improving the quality of life for the soldiers.”

Although soldiers and families must endure separation a little longer, the division is working to try to close the communication gap. Soldiers are allowed to use the military video teleconferencing system so they can see their family members as they talk with them. Units also have satellite telephones and military phones so soldiers can call home.

“In realizing that communications with the families is very important, we're pushing more satellite phones down to each of the battalions. Soldiers can call back to their families for free and the military phones are also available, Blount said. “Additionally, about 10 days ago we started video teleconferencing. We devoted the military VTC to soldiers so they can see and talk with their families back at Fort Stewart and Hunter. We've had more than 800 soldiers talking with their families. The soldiers do this about 12 hours a day. We've got that scheduled for the foreseeable future.”

Another initiative the division is working on to keep families in touch with each other is a high-speed Internet satellite connectivity for each battalion. They are also getting more computers so more soldiers will have access and won't have to wait in long lines. The computers and high-speed connectivity should be available next week, according to Blount.

See MISSION, Page 9A



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Iraqi children swarm B Btry., 1/9 FA 1st Sgt Garry Hunt as he hands them candy outside Al Fallujah July 3. The 3rd Inf. Div. has been tasked to remain in Iraq to continue to support current operations.

## New commander takes DISCOM's reins

Spc. Jacob Boyer

3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Public Affairs

A new leader took charge of Division Support Command Sunday at Camp Maintain in Iraq.

Col. Brian R. Layer took command of the brigade-size element from Col. Jim Hodge in a ceremony at the camp, located southeast of Baghdad. Hodge is going on to serve as chief of plans for the J-4, CENTCOM.

During Hodge's two years in command, DISCOM units participated in three rotations at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., two rotations to Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Spring and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He

praised his soldiers' "Herculean" efforts during the recent conflict.

“It was a heroic effort, and you made things happen as a group,” he told the assembled soldiers. “And as a group, I could not be more proud of you. You didn't whine, gripe or complain. You accepted every task, and your morale was unshakable.”

Layer, who comes to the Marne Division after serving as logistics transformation team chief at Headquarters, Department the Army, called the soldiers of his new command a “battle-hardened force.”

See DISCOM, Page 9A

## Marne soldiers will be home by Sept., DoD official says

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) will be home “by September,” Department of Defense officials said.

The 3rd Brigade of the Rock of the Marne division is already on its way back to Fort Benning, Ga., Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita said Tuesday.

For the unit's remainder, the intention is still to have them back to their home station by the fall. “Right now, the thinking remains that this division will be coming home by September,” Di

Rita said.

Details of the redeployment of the division are being worked through, he said. He said that U.S. Central Command chief Army Gen. John Abizaid “still believes that ... the general timeline to have people home by September makes sense.”

Di Rita said no one can give specific dates for the return of specific division units. Central Command and service officials are working hard to devise a fair rotation policy that will give CENTCOM the necessary number of troops and not overextend the military contingent.

Di Rita said the number of coalition troops in

See RETURNS, Page 9A

## One soldier killed, 10 injured in ambush

Staff Report

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A soldier from 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) was killed and 10 others were injured when their convoy was ambushed Monday morning.

Three of the injured soldiers were listed as serious. All of the injured were evacuated to 28th Combat Support Hospital for treatment. Seven of those soldiers have returned to duty.

The convoy was returning from a routine patrol mission when it began receiving fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. An RPG hit a 2 1/2-ton truck in the convoy. The RPG passed through the driver's cab into the engine causing the vehicle to catch on fire. A second RPG hit a Humvee in the side and passed all the way through the vehicle. Both vehicles were destroyed in the ambush.

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commanding general, 3rd Inf. Div., stated that this incident is especially hard to take since the Marne soldiers are so close to returning home.

“Our hearts go out to the family of the soldier we lost this past week, especially as we get closer to redeployment,” Blount said. “That makes it even harder. So I really do express on behalf of the division our deepest condolences and sympathies.”

Names of the dead and injured are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

FRI

High

89°



Low

70°

SAT

High

90°



Low

70°

SUN

High

88°



Low

72°

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# 3ID soldiers welcomed with open arms

## 600 more return over weekend

Staff Report

More than 600 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers came home over the weekend on four flights and were welcomed by families and friends at Cottrell Field.

There were 181 soldiers on the flight Friday night. On the first flight Saturday morning, 73 soldiers returned and 130 soldiers returned in the afternoon. Seventy soldiers returned Sunday morning and 130 followed on a second flight Sunday afternoon. On Monday, 130 soldiers returned.

During the Saturday afternoon return ceremony, Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, assistant division commander (maneuver), said, "I am sure that each and every one out here today are proud of what you have done."

"I'm very anxious that my son is returning. I just can't explain it because the time isn't going fast enough," said Edwina Whelan, mother of Staff Sgt. Dennis E. Whelan, Friday night as she wait for her son's arrival.

Fran Moore, the wife of Sgt. 1st Class Charles Moore from the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion and one of many spouses expectantly waiting the arrival of her loved one, said that she was excited and ecstatic to have him returning home. Her mother, father and sister along with two of her children were with her to wel-

come back her husband.

She said, "I'm proud of him and ... have been behind him 100 percent in every thing he has done for the Army and our freedom."

As the soldiers marched across the field cries of "there he is" and "that's him" preceded the thunderous roar of families shouting in joy at the sight of their loved ones.

Before the soldiers were released to their eager families they sang "The Dog Faced Soldier Song" and "The Army Song."

The troop commander was given the command to release the soldiers and quicker than you could say fall out, families came rushing from the stand to meet their soldier.

"We did what we were told to do. It was exciting and I'm glad to see my family," said Pfc. Charles Gongaware, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, Monday night.

Saturday Pfc. Daniel Nonnenmacher, 103rd Signal Bn., was met by his wife, Danielle, his son, 2-year-old Izayah, mother Violet and father Joe.

"It's a relief to finally be home. It was a unique experience and is something I will never forget," Daniel said.

His entire family was excited to see him and his father said, "This has to be the second greatest day of my life."



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

(Above) Lawrence Maston eagerly searches for his mother Pfc. LaTricia Maston.

Sgt. Raymond Piper

(Left) Families cheer Saturday morning as thier soldiers march onto Cottrell Field.



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

C Btry., 1st Bn., 3rd ADA stand in formation to sing the "Dog-faced Soldier Song" and the "Army Song" at Monday night's redeployment ceremony.



Sgt. Raymond Piper

Brig. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin speaks to redploying soldiers Saturday morning at Cottrell Field.



Spc. Casandra Bolton

Sgt. John Mann, B Co. 1/64 AR, is greeted by his wife, Cathy and daughter Samantha.



Sgt. Raymond Piper

Two-year old Izayah Nonnenmacher's grandmother, Violet holds him high as he claps and cheers with the rest of the crowd as his father and fellow soldiers march onto the field Saturday.



# TF 4-64 responds to enemy attack

Staff Report

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Task Force 4-64 Armor reported it came under enemy fire and was forced to respond killing five enemy personnel at Fallujah, Iraq Tuesday.

The task force reported that the attackers fired two to three rocket-propelled grenades at task force soldiers resulting in no injury or damage to U.S. personnel or equipment.

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), admitted that enemy personnel have been shooting at friendly forces around Fallujah for the last few months.

“Every two or three days, they (enemy) would engage us with RPGs,” Blount said. “We hadn’t been able to catch them. They sniped and they would shoot, but fortunately, they haven’t hit any of our vehicles ...in that area.”

Blount explained that in the case of this recent attack upon TF 4-64, our soldiers rapidly attacked the enemy soldiers to kill five and pursued to capture one other.

“So, they won’t be there to continue to shoot at us,” Blount continued. “We’ve taken them off the battlefield and made that area safer for our soldiers now. I’m glad our squads took aggressive action to counter the firing.”

Often times the enemy would fire and quickly get away before the reaction force could get to them. But, Blount said TF 4-64 had enough power to immediately attack the “bad guys” to make it safer for soldiers in the future.

Even after the incident task force soldiers conducted a sweep of the area and found four RPG launchers, six AK-47’s and 16 hand grenades, according to task force reports.

# Conference to help endangered species

**Pfc. Emily Danial**  
Staff Writer, PAO

The shortnose sturgeon, a fish that has been on the endangered species list since 1967, is a member of a species that has peacefully existed for several millennia. Now, unfortunately, its time in coastal Georgia appears to be drawing to an end - unless something can be done.

Fortunately, something can be done, according to fish scientists who attended the three-day Shortnose Sturgeon Recovery Conference held July 7-9 at Armstrong Atlantic State University and co-hosted by Fort Stewart.

The shortnose sturgeon, which can be found locally in the Savannah, Ogeechee and Altamaha Rivers, is monitored carefully in the area, and especially by Fort Stewart’s Fish and Wildlife employees, as the installation is home to a fair population of this fast disappearing fish.

As such, the post made an effort to do its part as a good steward of its environment, and helped to organize the conference.

“I felt the conference was extremely professional and drew people from various agencies and geographic regions into very informative and useful discussions,” said Dr. Kenneth Relyea, chairman of the AASU Biology Department.

The conference was dedicated to the renewal of the shortnose sturgeon population, and all of its objectives were met, according to Tom Bryce, the Chief of Fisheries for Fort Stewart’s Fish and Wildlife Branch.

“This conference brought together the leading shortnose sturgeon workers in the nation,” said Bryce. “As a result of this unique assembly of scientists, their combined knowledge and experience helped us to better assess the current recovery work and determine where we still need to conduct research

and implement conservation measures to accelerate recovery.”

Many discussions were focused on what the main factors causing the rapidly fading populace of shortnose sturgeons in the area, and what could be done about those factors.

“We obtained a clearer picture of southeastern shortnose sturgeon populations and realized that more effort needs to be directed at improving water quality in these rivers, locating and assessing spawning habitat, and evaluating the health of these populations — their growth, reproduction and survival,” Bryce said.

The fact that there were so many organizations from all over the country represented — and even from Canada — allowed the attendees to get a better idea of what each organization’s part was in the recovery process and brainstorm with each other in person about what was to be done.

“The conference resulted in strengthening of existing relationships and the building of new ones among the sturgeon worker community,” said Bryce. “All the participants were able to meet representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service and hear from them on status of the Recovery Plan Implementation, as well as communicate to them their questions and comments.”

“I believe all left the conference feeling that much had been accomplished and that a framework for future recovery and conservation activities and cooperation had been established,” said Relyea.

So with all these experts working together, why, you might ask, should Fort Stewart have such a large role in the plight of the shortnose sturgeon?

See Sturgeon, Page 16A



Fort Stewart Environmental Division photo

A close up shot of an adult shortnose sturgeon revealing the blunt nose, the bony side and dorsal scutes and the sensory barbels suspended beneath its snout.



# VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

## SPOUSES

from page 1A

Add the worry we all feel about the safety of our loved ones and it becomes a huge burden to bear. I know that the soldiers want to come home and I know that we need them back here. But that knowledge doesn't change the reality of the situation. Some of our soldiers have to remain in Iraq awhile longer. The units that have returned are the type of units that were needed earlier in this operation but are not necessary at this time.

Unfortunately, the type of units needed at this time are some of the same ones that have been deployed the longest. My heart goes out to all the soldiers and families of the units remaining in Iraq. We have the right to be disappointed and it is understandable if we are angry.

If you believe your feelings of depression or anger are outside what is normal, please ask for help. You can talk with your unit chaplain or a doctor at the post clinics. They should be able to help you or refer you to someone who can. If you don't know how to find the help you need, your unit's rear detachment personnel, FRG leaders, or ACS (Army Community Service) personnel should be able to guide you to people who are trained to help.

I'm so proud of the 3ID spouses for what you have done during this deployment. You've managed to be strong during difficult times, have taken care of your homes and children and learned to do things you've never done before. Several wives learned to drive in order to meet the needs of their families.

The knowledge that spouses are dealing positively with this deployment helps soldiers remain focused on their jobs and helps them deal with their own disappointments and hardships. I hate to ask you to dig deep for strength, once again, but there is no other choice. I have to dig pretty deep, myself.

Please know that my husband is doing all he can to improve the quality of life for your soldiers and will bring them home just as soon as he possibly can. His top priority is keeping the soldiers safe. The next one is getting them home. As a result of much personal effort, he has been successful in getting over half the Division redeployed and continues to work daily on ways to get more of our soldiers home.

In the meantime, he is working very

hard to improve every soldiers' ability to communicate with you. He's getting VTCs set up, providing satellite phones and will be adding high speed e-mail access to each battalion next week.

I know that many of you believe you should embark on a campaign to raise awareness of the need for 3ID to return. We need to be aware of a possible outcome of our outcries that could backfire on us directly. The Iraqis who continue to fight against us are not ignorant of the media and its affect on the American public. In the past, they have watched as public opinion influenced policy. In recent years, they have also watched as we conducted operations in other countries and have left soon after.

I believe the Iraqi dissidents are

then, will enough Arab people turn against Arab terrorists to make a significant difference. Only then, will we have a chance of ending terrorism originating from the Arab world.

I'm finally getting to the part where I explain how our negative reactions could ultimately hurt us.

When the Iraqis see media coverage of disgruntled Americans, publicly campaigning for the return of our soldiers from Iraq, they are encouraged and believe their strategy is working. They believe that their continued attacks on American soldiers are having the desired affect and are diminishing the resolve of the American people to complete the task in Iraq.

3ID spouses have been successful in making our country's leaders aware of our concern for our soldiers and the

**"I wish for every member of every 3ID family; good health, acceptance of things that can't be changed, patience, and a peaceful spirit."**

shooting our soldiers, one by one, in order to inflame the American people, in hopes that public concern will once again influence policy and force us to leave Iraq. I believe they would then attempt, probably successfully, to once again take control of Iraq, with Sadaam as the leader. In that case, our soldiers would have died for nothing and the threat of terrorism would be greater than before Operation Iraqi Freedom. I believe that our nation's leaders cannot allow that to happen.

We are committed to being in Iraq for the long haul. We have promised the Iraqi people that we will stay and leaving would insure the death of everyone who has cooperated with us. It is my assessment that more Arab people hate America today than ever before. Since I've lived and traveled in the mid-east for a total of six years, my assessment is not an uneducated one.

The only way we can possibly begin to win the trust of the Arab people is to keep our word and help the Iraqi people develop a successful Democratic government. Only then, will they believe that the intentions of Operation Iraqi Freedom were honorable. Only then, will they believe that we are truthful and keep our promises. Only

need for them to return. Army leadership is aware of 3ID's incredible success in Operation Iraqi Freedom and of the soldiers' need for relief. I have to believe that the right thing will be done and that our soldiers will be sent back to us as soon as it is possible to do so without compromising the success of the operation.

I know there isn't much anyone can say to ease your worry and your disappointment at another delay in the return of our soldiers. But just know there are many who understand and that 3ID leadership is looking out for your family's best interest. I hope you can believe that because it is so true.

Those of us here at Fort Stewart are doing all we can to help you remain strong. If we're not meeting your needs, please let us know what we can do to help. You deserve all we can do for you.

I wish for every member of every 3ID family; good health, acceptance of things that can't be changed, patience, and a peaceful spirit. I attend many of the reunion ceremonies conducted as soldiers return and, with the families, celebrate the safe return of their loved ones. I look forward to a happier time when we can all celebrate.

**Anita Blount**

## Letters to the Editor

*To the Service members and Families at Fort Stewart,*

I thank you with all my heart for your constant courage and selfless deeds on behalf of our nation. I am awestruck by your heroic accomplishments in the cause of freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq, and in so many other places around the world where the people in our military are asked to undertake the most difficult and dangerous missions imaginable, and risk your precious lives for America's future.

You do so because you understand how precious and vital America is to the future of the world. You represent all that is good and strong and honorable about our nation — the highest principles of character and commitment, which trace themselves back to our founding fathers. You are continuing their fight and carrying their fondest hopes for America, and for humanity, inside your hearts.

As you prosecute this war on terrorism, which is no less than a fight for Freedom's survival, please know that your fellow citizens hold you and your families in our hearts and in our prayers. That our faith and confidence in you, and in this mission which you are committed to, is unshakable.

We understand what is happening in Iraq, and we grieve for our troops who have been lost. They will never be gone from our hearts. Their memory will inspire us to push forward in spite of our fears, because we know this war is just.

There is no more important and noble a task than the

defense of liberty. And as we will secure freedom in Iraq, we will strengthen it everywhere. To back down in any way would be to dishonor your friends and colleagues — our countrymen — who have made the ultimate sacrifice in this effort. With faith in God, in our cause, and in ourselves we will achieve victory for America and for the world.

May God bless you all.

**Marisa Harris**

*To the families of the 3rd Infantry Division,*

I was a member of the 756 Tank Battalion that supported the 3rd Division in World War II. I am sure that the spirit then prevails today. They have never lost a war and I am sure they are winners now despite all the criticism. You know as I do, they are a great outfit and may God bless you and them.

**Denis T. Hannon**

*Ladies and Gentlemen of the U.S. Army*

I am simply a person whose heart could not avoid expressing my gratitude for the sacrifice you make for me and others, every day; but especially during wartime. You protect the lives of strangers who have no idea what you must endure.

The stars and stripes meant something to me as a child and is invaluable to those abroad. I hold on to both faith in our flag and that every soldier would hopefully return safely to "Lady Liberty".

May God bless you, your families and our America.

**LaRosa Starr**

## Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

**Readers respond to the question:**

**What are you doing to cope while your spouse is deployed?**



**"I keep the children busy. We go to play group and I joined the Waiting Spouses."**

**Christy Saldana**  
Waiting Spouse



**"My two children keep me busy."**

**Angel Lakin**  
Waiting Spouse



**"I keep busy by doing stuff with the kids."**

**Chrystal Bonifield**  
Waiting Spouse



**"I remained occupied. I started working two jobs."**

**Mianel Acevedo**  
Waiting Spouse



**"I pray and spend time with my children. I also attend every FRG meeting."**

**Tara Hamilton**  
Waiting Spouse



**"I spend a lot time with my family."**

**Julie Heath**  
Waiting Spouse

**Voice your opinion!**  
**Write a letter to the editor!**

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Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III

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# Hunter’s coasties welcome new commander

**Pfc. Emily Danial**  
Staff Writer, PAO

Moving on after two years from her position as commander of the Savannah Coast Guard Air Station at Hunter Army Airfield, Coast Guard Capt. Gail Donnelly passed the metaphorical baton off to Coast Guard Cmdr. Peter Troedsson July 10 in a ceremony at the Coast Guard hangar.

Having taken command of the Savannah air station shortly before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Donnelly and her command saw the station through the event and through the Coast Guard’s major structure changes that followed. In the two years Donnelly was with the air station, there was an 800% increase in ship escorts through the Savannah port, and the air station performed 650 search and rescue missions. She also was instrumental in the transformation to an updated helicopter model and through a new qualification with night vision goggles.

Donnelly, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., graduated from Syracuse University in 1979. She received her commission from Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Va., in March 1981.

Donnelly then reported to Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Fla., and was designated an aviator in March 1982. Subsequent duty stations were at Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles, Wa.; the Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Ala., where she completed the Aviation Maintenance Officer training program and deployed to the Arctic and Antarctic with the Polar Operations Division aboard the CGC Polar Star; the Coast Guard Group/Air Station, Cape May, N.J.; and the Aeronautical Engineering Division at Coast Guard Headquarters.

In 1995, she graduated with honors from a postgraduate degree program with a Masters in Engineering Management from The George Washington University.

Donnelly completed her next assignment as the Aviation Engineering Officer at the Coast Guard Group/Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, in July 1998. She then did a tour as the Executive Officer of Coast Guard Air Station, Borinquen Puerto Rico.

In July 2001, Donnelly assumed command of Coast Guard Air Station Savannah. Her decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, the Antarctic Service Medal, two Coast Guard Arctic Service Medals and several unit commendations.

Donnelly’s next assignment will be in Seattle, where she will coordinate Search and Rescue

**“I pledge our continued support in Homeland Security ... and all other Coast Guard missions.”**

**Coast Guard Cmdr. Peter Troedsson**  
Savannah Coast Guard Air Station at Hunter

operations in Washington and Oregon.

“I’m going to leave a large part of my heart here in Savannah at the Air Station,” said Donnelly. “Air Station Savannah, it has been an honor to be your C.O. ... Do the right thing and take care of each other.”

Troedsson, a Los Angeles native, holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Scandinavian Languages from UCLA.

After attending Naval Flight Training in 1987, he was assigned to the Coast Guard Air Station, Los Angeles, then in 1991 was assigned to duty as the Coast Guard’s exchange pilot with the Royal Navy in Cornwall, England.

In 1993, Troedsson was assigned to Coast Guard Group/Air Station Port Angeles, Wa., and in 1997 was selected for graduate education in Public Administration. He completed his Masters in Public Administration, with a concentration in International Trade Policy, in 1998 and was the 1998 MPA Honor Graduate from GWU’s School of Business and Public Management.

Next, Troedsson was assigned as a management analyst in the Office of Plans, Policy and Evaluation on the staff of the Coast Guard’s Resource Director, and was responsible for developing and communicating the Coast Guard’s capital investment plan. He comes to Savannah with his wife Carolyn and children Erik and Katie from the Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco, where he served as Executive Officer from July 2001 till June 2003.

Troedsson’s decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, four Coast Guard Achievement Medals, three Commandant’s Letters of Commendation and numerous unit commendations. He has accumulated over 4,300 flight hours and maintains an FAA Commercial pilot’s license in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft. He has completed the Naval War College’s graduate seminar in Strategy and Policy, and has been published in the Naval Institute’s Proceedings.

“I pledge our continued support in Homeland Security ... and all other Coast Guard missions,” said Troedsson. “I look forward to supporting and defending the United States Constitution with the fine team that is Air Station Savannah.”



Pfc. Emily Danial

**Outgoing Coast Guard Commander, Capt. Gail Donnelly, and incoming Commander Cdr. Peter Troedsson salute each other to signify the change of command in a ceremony July 10 at the Coast Guard Air Station Savannah's hangar at Hunter Army Airfield. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District, conducted the change of command.**

# Marines return from deployment to Iraq

1st Lt. Amy Phillips

Hunter Deputy PAO

Returning Marines of the Aerial Delivery Platoon, 2nd Beach and Terminal Operations Company, 4th Landing Support Battalion stationed at Hunter Army Airfield were greeted by a crowd of family members, friends, welcome home signs, and heat much like that of the Iraqi desert June 16. The 25 Marines spent three months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Marine Reserve platoon augmented and reinforced the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Pendleton, Calif., with aerial delivery of supplies and equipment via light and heavy drop from various military aircrafts to forward deployed units. According to the unit, 6,300 pounds of water and 3,200 MREs were packed and delivered.

The 4th LSB consists of 20 active duty Marines and 150 reservists, some of them traveling as far as six hours on a monthly basis for training, according to Inspector/Instructor Capt. Kirk Spangenberg.

"The transition went very well for the reservists. They out-performed the active duty counterparts," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Johns.

"... when we got there, it was like a big dream ... we didn't know what was going on ..." said Lance Cpl. Shane Crawford. Crawford plans to take his family to the mountains, "I've seen too much sand ... I want to spend as much time with my family as possible."

It was more like shock than a dream to one reservist who got the surprise of his life when he showed up for his first weekend drill and was told his unit is deploying to Iraq. Lance Cpl. Christopher Karahalios was still in shock and speechless when asked on his experience in Iraq.



1st Lt. Amy Phillips

**Marines of the Aerial Delivery Platoon, 2nd Beach and Terminal Operations Company, 4th Landing Support Battalion stationed at Hunter returned from Iraq to family members, welcome signs and friendly smiles June 16.**

"We learned a lot about our jobs and a lot about each other," said Crawford.

The Marines were on orders for a year but got a pleasant surprise when they received redeployment orders within

three months of their deployment. According to the unit, they received their orders on June 12 and were back in the States on the 16th. You can bet the Marines had no problem with the short notice!



‘No generation will ever forget ...’

# Viet-Vets provide flags, handshakes for returning soldiers

**Sgt. Sam Hoffman**  
Staff Writer

“We didn’t have ceremonies like this when we came back,” recalled Paul Spence, Vietnam veteran and president of the Liberty County chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

The unceremonious reception that many veterans of the Vietnam War came home to, being called harsh things 30 years ago does not keep these robust patriots from having a presence at the redeployment ceremonies for the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

“We ensure that there are some representa-

ment),” said Spence. With banner hanging and smiling faces, the approximately 100 VVA members in the chapter hand out little American flags to soldiers and spectators, tell stories, shake hands and spend time with those having no family to greet them. They are even willing to give soldiers transportation to hotels or billets.

“We had to assist a couple of soldiers that had too much baggage,” Spence said.

Redeployment flights have been taking on a very fluid schedule since the first one carrying 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery and the 3rd Inf. Div. Band, June 3. Although constantly changing, being delayed or moved up

until all hours of the night, the passengers always have someone waiting at Fort Stewart to greet them, rain or shine, 10 soldiers or 1,000, he said.

“We felt like they deserve it. Our motto is ‘No generation will ever forget another generation of veterans,’” Spence said.

VVA is involved with much more than just the redeployments at Fort Stewart, although right now this has become somewhat of a priority for members, he said.

“This is just one of the things we feel we have to do,” Spence said, citing the numerous community activities the chapter is involved with. The chapter helps out at Tri-County shelters, grant scholarships to deserving high school seniors and sponsors needy families at Christmas.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to have Vietnam combat veterans come to express their gratitude at our redeployments, not just one, but every one!” said Maj. Curtis R. Henry, operations officer and Gulf War Special Forces veteran.

“I really hope that all the VVA chapters near military posts do the same thing. It’s tough to go through what they did and still provide this heroic service to a new generation of soldiers,” he stated. “Maybe one day they’ll get the recognition they deserve. It means a lot to the soldiers to be congratulated by veterans who have undergone the same traumatic experience.”

“Anybody in the community that needs help can call the VVA. We’re always there,” Spence said.

*For more information on the VVA and its programs call 876-0235.*



Photos by Sgt. Sam Hoffman

**Jimmy Waynick, VVA member, hands out American flags to military family members Cleo and Taylor Reeves, Monday night.**



VVA members at Monday night’s redeployment ceremony pose for a photo.

Like a rock ...



Fort Stewart Museum Photos

Soldiers with the 3rd Inf. Div. pose for a company photo. The 3rd Inf. Div. history dates back to when it was activated at Camp Green, N.C. in Nov. 1917.

# Rock of the Marne still serves with pride

Spc. Casandra Bolton

Staff Writer, 372nd MPAD

Very few divisions can say that they have been deployed in almost every American conflict in one way or another. The 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) is one of the few that has that record. They have a long rewarding



A soldier from the 3rd Inf. Div. prepares to throw a grenade in a buiding during World War II.

history.

The 3rd Inf. Div. was activated at Camp Greene, N. C., in Nov. 1917. For six months, the Division filled its ranks and conducted numerous training operations. The division set sail for Europe arriving in France in February of 1918. After more training in trench and chemical warfare, the 3rd Division, under the command of General Joseph Dickman, was ordered to a quiet section of the line in the Vosges sector on May 30, 1918. Those orders were changed that night and the division was loaded onto trains and sent north to Conde-en-Brie. Upon arrival the next morning, the 7th Machine Gun Battalion was ordered by the local French commander to continue on to Chateau Thierry. Their mission was to cover the withdrawal of French forces as they crossed the Marne River.

The commander sent a runner for reinforcements and ordered his men to hold steady. When the reinforcements arrived, the attack had been repulsed but all three platoons were reduced to just a handful of survivors. All along the 3rd Division's lines, the Germans were being defeated. Their assault slowed and then finally stopped. By nightfall, 800 Germans had been captured. Some units had lost over 40% of their men either killed or wounded but nowhere on the 3rd Division's lines did the German forces break through. The 3rd Division stopped the Germans and that is where they received the name "Rock of the Marne."

After having a break after World War One, the 3rd Infantry Division was mobilized in early 1941 after the President

declared a state of emergency. The 3rd Division began the process of filling its ranks and prepared for war. In July 1942, the Division received its orders - prepare for the invasion of North Africa.

The 3rd Division, under the command of Maj. Gen. Lucian Truscott, was given the task of capturing Casablanca. The 3rd Division embarked aboard transport ships and sailed directly from America to Morocco in what would become the longest sea voyage preceding an amphibious landing.

The 3rd Division remained in Germany for several months serving occupation duty. They were relieved at the end of 1945 and in early 1946 they returned to the United States. During World War Two, 36 soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division were awarded the Medal of Honor and 71 the Distinguished Service Cross.

In 1990, when Iraq invaded and captured Kuwait, the 3rd Inf. Div. was still forward deployed in Germany. After several other units were transferred to the growing coalition forces in Saudi Arabia, the 3rd Division was assigned to V Corps in December of 1990. V Corps was also now responsible for the defense and protection of all of Southern Germany.

By December 12, 1990, the Phantom Brigade had completed the deployment from Germany. They were now part of "The Shield" of Desert Shield. The troops and light equipment were ferried using 115 flights of Air Force transports. The Brigade's heavy equipment and vehicles were shipped on board 45 Maritime Prepositioning Ships and arrived in theater by

December 24. The Brigade was then trucked to Initial Staging Area North, more commonly referred to as "The Scud Bowl". There the Brigade conducted training exercises and equipment maintenance. After the success of Desert Storm the 3rd Inf. Div. returned to the United States.

Soldiers currently serving in the 3rd Inf. Div. have the honor of wearing the Marne patch. The patch is a square containing three diagonal white stripes on a dark blue field. The three diagonal white stripes represent the numerical designation of the Division. The blue stripes represent infantry, loyalty, and the steadfastness of the American soldiers.

The 3rd Inf. Div. is currently comprised of the following units:

7th, 15th and 30th Mechanized Infantry Regiments

64th Armored Regiment (1st, 4th Bn.)  
69th Armored Regiment (2nd, 3rd Bn.)  
1st, 2nd BN 3rd Aviation Regiment  
10th, 11th and 317th Engineer Bn.  
3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry

The 1st and 2nd Brigades of the 3rd Division are stationed at Fort Stewart Georgia while the 3rd Brigade is stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Rock of the Marne is a strong today as it was in 1917 and the Soldiers of the 3rd Division stand ready to answer their Nation's call to defeat aggression with cold steel and rock solid determination. They are currently serving in Iraq as the leading division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**Rock of the Marne!**



# MISSION

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“This will enable soldiers to better communicate with their families back in the states. So they can get on the Internet and e-mail their families,” Blount explained. While concentrating on helping soldiers communicate with family members is a high priority, so is morale, welfare and recreation for soldiers, according to Blount. Soldiers are used to working long days and having little time off for fun and recreation. But units are putting lots of time and energy into ensuring that the necessary equipment is available, and opening pools where available on military compounds to help soldiers cool off from the blazing sun.

“Fifty to sixty percent of the soldiers have air conditioning in their living area and we will work to ensure air conditioning is installed everywhere we can,” he said.

Another option is taking a short respite to another country. According to Blount, Central Command and the Coalition Joint Task Force - 7 have developed a program that will allow the division to send about 100 soldiers each week down to Qatar.

“We will fly the soldiers down and they will have four days off where they will be

able to swim and scuba dive and go to a movie and eat in restaurants,” he said. “This will allow them to get off the battlefield and get down there to rest and relax. We will be doing that throughout the division.”

The first group of 120 soldiers to go on R&R will be from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team who depart tomorrow, according to Blount.

“The division is also continuing to work different trips here in the country so when soldiers do have some time off, we can give them a break, give them some down time and let them relax and do something different,” he added.

Improving meals and getting a variety of foods is also a top priority for the division. “We’re working hard to improve the rations. All our food is brought in from Kuwait. That takes time, so soldiers have not been getting as many fresh prepared meals as I would like to have given, we’re working hard to do that. Blount added. “But soldiers are getting fresh fruit and they are getting one or two hot meals every day. They may not be the ‘A’ rations, but they are good meals and that’s getting bet-

ter all the time, too.”

A couple of months ago, we had some water problems. We got those solved, now we have more bottled water for the soldiers, and plenty of ice for the soldiers, Blount said.

A lot of emphasis has been placed on when the division is going to redeploy. This has caused many soldiers and family members some disappointments.

“It’s very important that the families understand the division does have a mission over here. It’s very important that we are successful in this mission,” Blount explained.

“What the division and the coalition have done in liberating Iraq can all be lost if we pulled out now. So we’ve got to stay and make sure that the democracy that’s being set up in Iraq is successful, and that our fallen soldiers and their families didn’t make the ultimate sacrifice in vain.

“We’ve lost 39 soldiers throughout this campaign. Every soldier is special to us and our hearts go out to the families of the soldiers that we’ve lost,” the general said.

“I really appreciate the stress and the strain that this deployment has put on the families.

I’ve read all the letters and I understand the hardships that the spouses are going through not knowing and having their hopes raised and then being disappointed,” Blount said. “ I just ask that they remain strong. The soldiers are going to come home. The Army is working very, very hard. One of the top priorities is to rotate 3rd Infantry Division back home. It’s going to happen and it’s going to happen fairly soon.”

Blount said that no dates are set yet and that he won’t put dates out until the division is on its way back to Kuwait. “Then we’ll start making some announcements,” he said.

Leaders are working hard to keep morale up. It’s important that soldiers understand why they’re here and the importance of it (the mission), and that the Army is working hard to get them back home, according to Blount.

“It’s understandable that the soldiers are disappointed. It’s to be expected,” Blount said while re-emphasizing that they’re well trained and they have good leaders. They understand we’re in a combat zone here, and there’s still fighting going on. I am very proud of the job they do every day.”

# DISCOM

from page 1A

“It is an honor to stand with so many heroes here today,” he said. “It takes a strong heart to run so hard and so fast. You soldiers did great things on the battlefield, and you look great today.”

Hodge charged Layer with getting the soldiers home safely when the time for redeployment came.

“I accept as my first duty that task,” Layer said. “I will make sure these soldiers get home safely so they can read the history they’ve written to their children and grandchildren.”

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III, commander, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart and

Hunter Army Airfield, was the commander of troops for the ceremony.

“Col. Layer has a great history of leadership and taking care of soldiers,” he said. “He’s known for taking the tough jobs, and now he’s coming to the most lethal division in the history of the Army, probably in the history of the world.”

Layer’s previous commands include a service company in the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 801st Main Support Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky. He and his wife, Ella, have two children, Maria and Greg.



Spc. Jacob Boyer

**Col. Brian R. Layer prepares to receive the guidon during the ceremony.**

# RETURNS

from page 1A

Iraq should remain constant — at about 160,000. The number of U.S. troops in Iraq now is around 145,000, said DoD officials. That number may rise or fall depending on the situation on the ground, they said.

If operations pick up and there are more attacks on U.S. forces, then the number may increase. But if coalition countries come through with more troops — two coalition divisions are expected in August and September — or more power can be turned over to Iraqi officials, then the number of U.S. troops required in the country may drop.

Di Rita said that there is some

uncertainty and that the 3rd Infantry Division’s commander Maj. Gen. Buford Blount does not want expectations in the division and for families back home to “get too elevated beyond the broad point, which is we’ll have these folks home by the fall.” Di Rita said DoD, the Army and the division will do everything possible to keep the families informed.

Di Rita said commanders are also thinking of rest and relaxation areas for the troops. “I know that the commanders feel strongly that it’s important ... to keep their eyes closely on quality of life for the troops in Iraq, and R&R is an element of quality of life,” he said.



# Iraqi Freedom the 'highlight' of outgoing DISCOM commander's career



Spc. Jacob Boyer

3Inf. Div. (Mech.) Public Affairs

War is a time for soldiers to put their skills to the test. No matter how many times they have been through the same pieces of training or how well their units fared at their last National Training Center rotation, gunnery or Marine Focus exercise, they cannot know if it will all work on the battlefield until they stand victorious there.

Some spend their entire careers training for the possibility, however remote, that they will one day have to use their skills in a real-world situation. Many will one day find themselves facing that ultimate challenge more prepared than any other soldiers in the world. For the men and women of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.), that moment came in late March as they moved out from camps in Kuwait to "go north" in the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For most, the ensuing weeks and months will stand as a major event in their lives.

According to Col. Jim Hodge, the commander of Division Support Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom, commanding one of the division's brigades during the conflict was "the highlight of my entire career."

"We are all in this business to protect our country and our way of life, and to this point, in my 25 years in the Army, I've never been called upon" he said. "So far and away, this has been the most richly rewarding experience I've had."

Hodge stepped down from command of DISCOM June 29 after two years to serve as the chief of plans for the Central Command J-4. Under his leadership, DISCOM units participated in three NTC rotations at Fort Irwin, Calif., a Warfighter exercise, two CONUS Crisis Response Force rotations in Kuwait and numerous exercises at Fort Stewart. All of that training culminated when the division stormed across the desert of southern Iraq, reaching Baghdad in 16 days. DISCOM was vital in ensuring the division's maneuver units received the supplies they needed during the 600-kilometer trek.

"When you talk about having the right ammunition at the right place, DISCOM is the one that provides that ammunition," Hodge said. "We provide repair parts. We provide medical health care and combat health care to the soldiers on the battlefield. We provide transportation for any of the classes of supply. We're responsible for all of that."

Hodge said that even though the supply lines did not always run on time, he was proud of the job done by the support battalions.

"There were times during the war when supplies didn't necessarily show up on time, but I don't think there was ever a time in which a brigade combat team was inhibited from conducting its missions because it didn't have supplies," he said.

The biggest challenge DISCOM faced during the war was a lack of sufficient transportation assets at the theater level, Hodge said. The transportation shortage meant the supplies coming north out of Kuwait had to be prioritized, and that prioritization did not always synch with what the division needed.

"One of the biggest problems we had early on was the lack of repair parts for our vehicles," Hodge said. "It wasn't that there were not repair parts, it's that they were in Doha and we had a hard time getting the transportation to move them from Kuwait up to wherever we were on the battlefield. When we started getting all the repair parts we needed and the transportation was focused on that, we then began having shortages of food and water. It seemed like when we finally got enough supplies in one of those areas, then another one would fall off the scope. It required a tremendous amount of work."

Even amidst the challenges of a shifting battlefield, several of Hodge's soldiers said he maintained his calm demeanor. One crucial moment came when the brigade was at Objective Rams and 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry was fighting around An Najaf and running out of ammunition.

"We couldn't get the ammo forward to 3/7 Cav," said Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Goldsmith, transportation and movement control noncommissioned officer in charge, DISCOM. "He was really

upset about that. It was the only time I've know him to even get ready to go off."

But Hodge kept his calm, said Capt. Scott B. Davis, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, DISCOM.

"It was an intense moment, but the colonel stayed calm and focused," he said. "He wasn't raging around or chewing people out or anything like that. He always thought there was a solution for the problem."

Hodge said he was proud of the job his soldiers did on the battlefield.

"Their performance has been absolutely magnificent," he said. "To be quite honest, I didn't know how they would react in combat, but in every case, they never let me down. They haven't whined. They haven't griped. They haven't complained. They've simply taken every order that's been given and carried it out to the best of their ability, while at all times maintaining outstanding morale and esprit."

Hodge, who along with his wife, Michelle, has three children, Kyle, Corey and Kelsey, said the high level of morale has continued over the past few months amidst swirling rumors of the soldiers' imminent departure.

"When the emotional roller coaster goes up and down and people get disappointed by the fact that we're not leaving, they've bounced back," he said. "And they just keep coming. That's been the most magnificent thing I've seen in the past two years."

Hodge said his two years in command have seen many other highlights, including the many training rotations and the Warfighter exercise.

"Going through the Warfighter was definitely a highlight of my command," he said "It provided the DREAR and the DISCOM the opportunity to do all the division-level command and control functions to make sure that we could do our jobs during a war."

One other event that sticks out in Hodge's mind was when his brigade conducted training for its medics to qualify for the Expert Field Medical Badge.

"It was lots o hard work, effort and motivation," he said. "The reward was fantastic when I saw the soldiers standing in formation being awarded their badges."

Hodge had two major goals when he took command of the brigade, he said. He wanted to make sure the support units maintained their focus on the brigades they supported and to commanding an atmosphere that would allow all his soldiers to succeed. He feels he has been successful in achieving his goals.

"I will simply say that I am leaving command with a great degree of job satisfaction, in that I think I've established the kind of command environment in which people were free to grow, learn and get better," he said. "In that regard, I'd say I'm very pleased with how things have gone."

Hodge, who played offensive line for the football team while he attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., said he was saddened to leave because this would be his last opportunity to operate in a division, which he considers the ultimate example of the teamwork he learned playing sports growing up.

"I consider a mechanized division the ultimate team," he said. "When you finish DISCOM command, there are no more places in a division for a logistician. To think that for whatever time it is I have left in the Army, I won't be able to be in a division again is kind of disappointing, because I don't think there's a better place or organization to be in."

Hodge said that leaving command while his soldiers are still in Iraq was tough.

"Leaving right now is extremely bittersweet," he said. "To not be able to go home with my soldiers is a tremendous disappointment. But I understand there's a natural cycle to the Army, and my time is over. If I could do it differently, I would prefer to go home with my soldiers. My mental image of this whole exercise always concluded with me marching into the gym in a big formation with all my soldiers, with all the families there in the stands. I wanted to see the joy, the happiness and the tears. I'll miss the opportunity to see that."

A 92nd Chemical Company decontamination team decons a simulated contaminated area during an NTC rotation.

File photos



Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

(Above) A sister of Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity and Pfc. Sara Aderholt, A Company, 3rd FSB, help a child in the home try on a pair sunglasses May 24.

Spc. Katherine Robinson

(Left) Sgt. John Joslyn, a metal worker with B Co., 3rd FSB, welds a cracked water buffalo.



92nd Chem. Co. decontamination teams move into position to set up a decon site.



A 3rd Forward Support Battalion soldier stands guard during a training exercise.



# Franks: U.S. committed to Global War on Terror

Casie Vinall

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. Central Command has been at the “leading edge of the global war on terrorism” for the past two years, according to Tommy Franks, the U.S. Army general who led the U.S. offensive against terrorism in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

“The precision, the determination, the expertise of our young men and women who wear the uniform, and of our coalition partners,” Franks said “has brought about the liberation of Afghanistan. It’s brought about the liberation of Iraq — both in lightning speed, in the sweep of history, with minimum bloodshed.”

During his first address to the House Armed Services Committee since leaving his post as commander of U.S. Central Command July 7, the general stressed the importance of continuing operations in the war on terror.

“Our commitment remains as strong today as it was when we started,” he said July 10. “Our troopers are working to bring security to the region, and they’ll continue to do so.”

Complacency in the ongoing effort is not an option, Franks said.

“There will be no silver bullet that will solve the security issue for us. We have to remember that we are at war, and we have to continue to be offensive in spirit.”

Even as the world’s focus shifted to Iraq, he added, “the coalition and U.S. commitment to Afghanistan have remained constant.”

“Afghanistan continues to make strides toward independence,” he said, “and the Afghan people continue to develop their nation, while our forces, as coalition lead, continue to seek out and destroy terrorists and their networks all across the central region.”

In Iraq, Franks said, Ambassador Jerry Bremer, director of the Coalition Provisional Authority, is working on three crucial aspects of reconstruction: establishing an Iraqi government, improving the economy and improving security.

Coalition military forces are forming and training police and security forces, as well as a new Iraqi army. Coalition troops are also helping to improve the infrastructure, support the establishing “both local and national government, (and) providing emergency medical care and other humanitarian assistance,” he said.

Security is vital for economic growth, Franks said, adding that it’s unlikely security will improve in Iraq until

the people can see “some tangible benefit of their liberation.”

Attacks continue to plague coalition forces in Iraq, but Franks said he would not label them a “guerrilla effort” for two reasons.

“One, guerrilla and insurgency operations are supported by the people,” he explained, “and I’ve demonstrated to my own satisfaction that the people of Iraq do not support the violence that we’re seeing right now.

“The second reason is that while we see increasing sophistication and we see the use of mortars and so forth,” he continued, “what I have not yet seen is the networking of these capabilities in a way where these assets are com-

**“We want to be there for as long as it takes...”**

Tommy Franks  
U.S. Army General

manded and controlled.”

Regarding how long coalition forces will remain in Iraq, Franks declared that “absolute success” would be necessary before leaving.

“We want to be there for as long as it takes to have the Iraqis being able to operate with a form of governance that respects human rights as well as neighbors,” he said. “But we don’t want to be there a day longer than that.”

The goal is to help the Iraqis govern Iraq “so that we assure ourselves that another safe harbor for terrorism and for the export of WMD is not created,” Franks said.

The general pointed out that coalition success in the war in Iraq can be attributed to “the efficacy, the utility, and the power of joint operations.”

Joint operations may well be the “most powerful aspect of this operation in Iraq,” he added.

“During this time, our command, control, computer, communications and intelligence architectures were dramatically improved, and the synergy of those operations was taken to new levels of sophistication,” he said. “Our forces were able to achieve their operational objectives during the military beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom by integrating ground maneuver, special operations forces, precision lethal fires, and non-precision fires.”

With a current commitment of 19 nations, the addition of 19 more countries by summer’s end, and continuing negotiations with 11 more, “we’re moving in the direction of internationalizing the force,” Franks said.

“I think that that is terribly important, because ultimately the Iraqi people themselves have to be in charge of this,” he noted. “The road between here and there needs to be more internationalized with more interest and more activity by the international community.”

Franks called for the military to become even more focused on increased cooperation. “Our ability to share information and work together also needs to be honed, worked, schooled, drilled, and resourced,” he said.

U.S. operations in Iraq have also served to spotlight areas that need improvement, the general observed.

“Fratricide prevention is one area where we need work,” he said, “as we suffered from a lack of standardized combat identification of the systems and the people, between nations and between the services on the battlefield.”

Deployment planning and implementation need improvement, he said, and “coalition information-sharing also must be improved at all levels.

Human intelligence and communications bandwidth are also areas which will require continuing focus in the days, months and years ahead.”

Addressing the issue of whether the military may have too much on its plate, Franks recalled his thoughts of Sept. 11, 2001.

“I remember ... the way I felt and the way America felt when we realized our own vulnerability in this country as we watched the strike on the Pentagon, the field in Pennsylvania and the World Trade Center come down, and recognized the loss of some 3,000 people as a result of our own vulnerability.

“Our president said at that time that a heavy load is going to reside on the shoulders of America’s military ... I do believe that all of us recognize the obligation and the responsibility to do whatever our president calls on us to do as part of the global war on terrorism,” Franks said.

The general, who’s soon due to retire after 38 years in service, shared his views on the military of the future. He said future forces will need to acquire the “desired transformational characteristics” such as mobility, precision, “lightness” and lethality.

Overall, he said, “the force needs to be lethal so that our country can remain credible, backed by credible military force,” Franks said.



# Rumsfeld: Attacks in Iraq likely to continue

**Kathleen T. Rhem**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The closer coalition forces get to completely dismantling the remnants of Iraq’s ousted Baath government, the “more vicious” attacks on American forces in that country are likely to become, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said July 13.

Since President Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq, at least 79 American troops have been killed and nearly 400 others injured. The most recent American casualties came just this morning, when a soldier was killed and two others were injured “when a tractor trailer crashed into their military vehicle,” according to a U.S. Central Command release.

Unfortunately, Rumsfeld contended on Sunday’s NBC News “Meet the Press,” this trend is likely to continue until Saddam Hussein’s remaining supporters are rooted out.

“(The president) said major com-

bat operations have ended,” Rumsfeld said. “He did not say the war had ended. He did not say there would be no one else killed.”


He agreed with comments by Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, American civil administrator in Iraq, that “it’s going to be a rough summer.” Rumsfeld said officials have even surmised attacks might increase in July, “which is an anniversary for a lot of Baathist events.”

The secretary blamed the attacks on supporters of the former regime who are afraid of the American policy of “de-Baathification” and are determined to do something about it. “There’s still a lot of people from the Baathist (party) and Fedayeen Saddam (death squads) ... who are there, who are disadvantaged by the fact that their regime has been thrown out and would like to get back,” Rumsfeld said, adding, “But they’re not going to succeed.”

There is debate among the intelli-

“(The president) said major combat operations have ended. He did not say the war had ended. He did not say there would be no one else killed. ”

Hon. Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense



gence community on the level of organization within the resistance, Rumsfeld said. Clearly, he explained, there is some level of organization in regions and cities. But there’s “no conviction” among intelligence experts that resistance is being coordinated on a national level.

What is clear is that the remnants are targeting areas in which the coalition and Iraqi people are successful in working together, Rumsfeld said. Recent attacks have targeted a university and an Iraqi police station.

To combat this resistance, the

United States launched new Operation Ivy Serpent July 12. According to CENTCOM officials, the operation is concentrated in the region between the cities of Bayji, Huwayiah and Samarra.

“Coalition members encourage the local Iraqi leadership to take the initiative and aid in the capture of subversive elements that attempt to hinder the rebuilding of Iraq,” stated a CENTCOM release.

Fear that Hussein might regain power is an important factor in preventing some Iraqis from embracing progress. “Here’s a man that for 30

years was killing people — hundreds and hundreds and tens of thousands of people — Iraqi people he killed. So there is fear he might come back,” Rumsfeld said.

“He isn’t going to come back,” he added. “Let there be no doubt about that.”

In spite of this fear, many Iraqis are committed to improving their lot and their country. “There are a great many Iraqi people ... who are signing up to be policemen, signing up to go back in the army, opening schools, opening universities, opening hospitals,” the secretary said. “And there’s a lot of progress taking place on the ground.”

The United States is currently spending about \$4 billion per month to maintain the roughly 147,000 American troops on the ground in Iraq. Rumsfeld said this troop level is “unlikely to go up” but could conceivably if the security situation in the country changes. “If they’re needed, they will be there,” he said.

## CENTCOM News

### Soda Mountain continues

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The 4th Infantry Division continued to lead the way in Operation Soda Mountain with supporting operation, Operation Ivy Serpent, in order to create a secure environment in Iraq.

Since the beginning of the operation on July 12, the 4th Inf. Div. has conducted 71 raids and detained 448 individuals, including 38 individuals identified as key former regime loyalists leaders. Confiscated weapons include 102 AK-47s, 387 125mm mortar rounds, and four 60 mm mortar tubes.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force discovered and destroyed eight SA-7 missiles located in the Muhawil ammunition supply point.

The 1st MEF came to the aid of an U. S. Army convoy that was attacked with an improvised explosive device in Babil. They later captured two of the attackers and confiscated a Dragonov rifle, AK-47s and ammunition. The attackers were taken for questioning.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment seized a weapons cache in a town north of Habinyah. The weapons seized consisted of 400 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 15 mortars with fuses and one anti-tank mine. A bunker complex was identified as well. An engineer unit demolished the bunker site

In other activity, a unit of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) secured the former Iraqi Military stipend payments paying 1,065 former Iraqi soldiers on the first day.

Elsewhere, Coalition forces have continued aggressive patrols throughout the country over the last 24 hours conducting 65 raids, 1,347-day patrols and 1,690-night patrols. They also jointly patrolled with the Iraqi Police conducting 172-day patrols and 216-night patrols. Independently, the

Iraqi Police conducted eight day patrols and two night patrols.

The total raids and patrols resulted in 360 arrests for various criminal activities including four for murder, five for car jacking, 11 for aggravated assault, 11 for burglary, and 13 for looting.

### Attack kills one, wounds three

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A soldier from the 3rd Corps Support Command was killed and three others wounded at approximately 9:55 a.m. today in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on their convoy as it was traveling near Abu Ghuraib prison in the western part of Baghdad.

The soldiers were evacuated to the 447th Forward Support Battalion for treatment.

The names of the soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

### Ivy Serpent yields results

TIKRIT, Iraq — Operation Ivy Serpent, in its second day, resulted in the capture of 226 detainees and the confiscation of 800 82-mm mortar rounds, 50 AK-47s, 26 rocket-propelled grenades and three hand grenades. Six of the detainees are former regime loyalist leaders.

Operation Ivy Serpent, which started July 12, is the initiative of the 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse to search for and apprehend high value targets and confiscate weapons and ammunition caches. Operation Ivy Serpent, like previous operations Peninsula Strike, Desert Scorpion and Sidewinder, will sweep the task force’s area

and root out elements that have attacked Coalition forces.

So far in Operation Ivy Serpent the 4th Inf. Div. and Taskforce Ironhorse have conducted 27 raids. To date, no Iraqi civilians have been killed or wounded in the operation. Additionally, no Coalition forces have been killed or wounded.

### Humanitarian projects help Iraqis

TIKRIT, Iraq — Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse are helping rebuild Iraq with projects directed at improving facilities and providing jobs.

In the provinces of Salah Ad Din, Diyala and At Tamin, the 4th ID is managing reconstruction projects in a variety of areas that includes education, health and human services, public works, security and communications.

More than 150 projects are underway in Salah Ad Din province. The Tikrit Model School will receive a fresh coat of paint along with mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements. The school improvement project will also provide jobs to local residents. Also, the Samarra Health Clinic and Hospital will receive new equipment to replace that which was damaged or looted during the war.

In At Tamim province, 76 new law enforcement officers will receive training at the Kirkuk Police Academy. The academy is a cooperative effort between U.S. and Iraqi police instructors. Also in Kirkuk, repairs and improvements at the Communications Office will help the ministry re-establish a vital communications hub in northern Iraq.

**Editor’s note:** *Information was taken from U.S. Central Command press releases*



# VA benefits could expand to former POWs

VAPress Release

WASHINGTON — President Bush has proposed legislation to Congress that would improve benefits for former prisoners of war, responding to the needs of Operation Iraqi Freedom POWs.

“What we’re proposing is to eliminate the current requirement in federal law that a former POW must be detained for at least 30 days in order to qualify for full POW benefits,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

For its disability compensation program, the Department of Veterans Affairs currently presumes that certain medical conditions in former POWs held at least 30 days are related to their captivity. This allows veterans to obtain financial benefits without providing evidence directly linking a medical problem to captivity.

“That may have made sense years ago for some conditions linked to nutritional deficiencies, but even a few days enduring terror at the hands of enemy captors may lead to other conditions,” Principi said.

The VA proposal also would improve dental care eligibility and exempt former POWs from current co-payments for medications for non-service-connected conditions. Currently, some ex-POWs may be charged \$7 for drugs that treat conditions unrelated to their service.

The current presumptions in law recognize that military medical records do not cover periods of captivity, which make it difficult for a veteran to provide evidence of the conditions endured. VA pays tax-free disability compensation ranging from \$104 to \$2,193 monthly, depending on the degree of disability, with additional sums for dependents.

“Studies have shown that the physical hardships and psychological stress endured by POWs have life-long effects on

health and on social and vocational adjustment,” Principi said.

Because benefits have changed over the years, VA took steps earlier this year to ensure that all former POWs are aware of benefits to which they are entitled. VA’s outreach included mailing benefits information to more than 10,000 former POWs currently receiving compensation as well, as another 4,700 known ex-POWs not on its rolls.

Early feedback indicates that VA is receiving hundreds of claims from POWs for new benefits or for higher disability ratings.

VA is taking special efforts to process the claims of older veterans quickly, including those of former U.S. POWs who served in World War II. The average age for this group is 82.

VA maintains a Web site with detailed information on its benefits for former prisoners of war at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/>.

## 2005 BRAC eyeing CONUS Posts

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — There were 97 major base closures and 55 major realignments during previous base realignment and closure actions in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995, according to Department of Defense documents.

Besides cutting redundant infrastructure, those BRACS resulted in a net savings of \$16 billion through fiscal 2001, according to DoD figures, and annually recurring savings of \$6 billion beyond then.

However, almost a decade has passed since the last BRAC was conducted. Raymond DuBois, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, noted during a July 10 Pentagon interview. Congress authorized DoD to execute a new BRAC round in 2005.

Much has changed since 1995, DuBois

emphasized, pointing to today’s war against global terrorism.

“A great deal has changed in the last 10 years that ought to lead any thinking person to the conclusion that ... (another BRAC) is a good thing to do,” he said.

The next BRAC will affect stateside and U.S. territory bases. DoD, he added, is also looking at its global military force structure to see if it meets today’s national security needs.

Lessons learned from the Sept. 11 attacks and the ensuing war on terrorism, DuBois noted, suggest that adjustments should also be conducted with forces stationed overseas.

And besides trimming excess real estate that’s costly to maintain, he explained, another BRAC would assist DoD to become more “joint.”

“We ought to look at how all four services can utilize a reconfigured footprint to

better support the warfighting plans of the combatant commanders,” DuBois said.

Although not addressed in the 2005 BRAC, it’s well known, DuBois pointed out, that “there are (overseas) places where we have a concentration of troops basically as a legacy from the Cold War — as a legacy of the post-World War II situation between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.”

The Cold War “has gone away,” he asserted. Consequently, he pointed out, there is no longer a need for having 70,000 U.S. troops based in Germany. In fact, DuBois noted that U.S. combatant commanders are slated to meet soon to study today’s worldwide basing and warfighting needs.

The 2005 BRAC, DuBois noted, will reconfigure stateside military infrastructure to meet the realities of the 21st century. Some installations, he explained, will gain assets while others will be closed.

“The secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs (of Staff) and the combatant commanders have learned that our force structure is not necessarily positioned in the right place,” DuBois pointed out, to carry out U.S. military deployment and warfighting plans in the most efficient way.

Another potential result derived from another round of base realignments and closures, DuBois noted, is fewer duty station moves: Remaining military installations would be in advantageous locations related to their military missions.

If service members move less from station to station during their careers, then “I think that has a positive impact on quality of life,” DuBois said.

Basically, the war against global terrorism has caused DoD to rethink “what opportunities should we have for basing, for deployment, for supply lines — globally,” DuBois concluded.

## Designation board set for officers in 1998 year group

PERSCOM Public Affairs

Special to The Frontline

WASHINGTON — Company commanders and other captains in year group 1998 must make a decision about their career beginning next month.

The functional area designation board for captains with a date of rank between April 1, 2001 and March 31, 2002 is scheduled and these officers have from Aug. 1 to Nov. 1 to sub-

mit their career preferences, according to U.S. Army Personnel Command officials. The board will meet in December.

Unlike previous designations, officers in this year group will have the option to select their basic branch as a functional area preference. This selection indicates a desire to remain in a basic branch and not to work in one of the Army’s functional areas.

The Officer Personnel Management System consists of four career fields. A total of 18 functional areas and 16 basic branches comprise the career fields. Between the fifth and

sixth years of service, active-duty, Army Competitive Category officers are designated with a secondary career field.

Captains should receive information from PERSCOM, through their Army Knowledge Online e-mail accounts, explaining how to submit their online preference statement through the AKO web page, officials said.

More information is available at the FAD home page on PERSCOM online, <https://www.perscom.army.mil>.

**Happy Birthday Army Community Service**  
**Celebrating 38 years of ACS service to the military community**



# 3ID IN BRIEF

## Stewart

## Hunter

## Winn Army Community Hospital

**Frank Cochran and Wilson**  
The traffic signal at the above intersection will be re-activated starting at 8 a.m., July 22. Motorists are urged to exercise caution when approaching intersection and be alert for the other driver.

**Main Gate**

Gate 1 will have only one accessible inbound lane and one accessible out boud lane beginning the morning of July 21.  
All inbound traffic entering through Main Gate will be routed to a new four way stop located at where the NEW General Stewart Way intersects with Memorial Drive and proceeds to General Screven Way.  
Construction will be going on during this period and to alleviate the traffic flow 4th Street Gate (Gate 2/Troupe Gate) will start opening at 5 a.m., July 18.

**Happy birthday ACS**

The public is invited to celebrate 38 years of ACS service to the military community. Celebrate at ACS Bldg. 470, Lindquist Ave., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 25. Free food, entertainment and games for all ages.  
For more information, call 767-5064.

**“The Laughing Dragon”**

The Fort Stewart Library is presenting a puppet show at the Woodruff Theater, 11 a.m., July 31, entitled “The Laughing Dragon”. This show is FREE and open to the public.

**15th Street Gate**

Effective July 1, the operation hours of Gate 7 will be 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Only commercial vehicles will still be allowed to enter during the

physical training period of 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Currently the gate is open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Please adjust your driving routes due to this change.

**Family Assistance Center**

Army Community Service at Fort Stewart scaled back its Family Assistance Center hours of operation. New hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Weekends will be handled with an on call roster and phones forwarded to EOC.

**Childcare needed**

Military wives are needed to provide childcare in their homes. Free training and assistance offered through Youth Services’ Family Childcare program. Why not consider this excellent opportunity to make money?  
For more information call 767-2311.

**Education Center hours**

The Main Education Center, Building 130, will continue with expanded hours due to the high demand for services during the day and evening hours. The 1st Brigade/Divarty Learning Center will return to regular business hours. Computer access is available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

**Sunday Brunch**

Bring 20 or more people, or a church bulletin and get \$1 off. Half price for children 9 - 12 and children under age 8 eat free. Cartoon available for children. For information call 368-2212.

**Happy Birthday ACS**

The public is invited to celebrate 38 years of ACS service to the military community. Celebrate at ACS Bldg. 1286, 171 Haley Ave, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 24. Prizes awarded at Noon Dance Contest, free food, entertainment and games for all ages.  
For more information, call 352-5259.

**After-school program**

The Hunter Youth Center is now signing up students in the 6th grade level and higher for a free After-School Program. First through 5th graders may also sign up, however, space is limited. Those who are interested can register at Building 1286.

**Phatt Katz Comedy Show**

The Phatt Katz Comedy Run will present shows at the Hunter Club on Wednesday starting at 9:30 p.m. Performances will feature two comedians and one headliner.  
Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For reservations call 269-0277.

**Continuing education**

Family members, Army Reservists and National Guardsmen can continue their education during their relocation to Hunter Army Airfield, regardless of their specific unit, at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center, Building 1290. For more information, call 352-6130.  
Classrooms are also available for training and FRG meetings. For additional information about these locations, or the ACES program, call the Main Education Center at

352-6130.

**First Steps Program**

The First Steps Program needs volunteers.  
This is a program that provides information and support to expectant and new parents stationed at Hunter. Volunteers make home visits to expectant parents and provide a 12 month phone call follow up. Volunteers are paid mileage reimbursement and enjoy flexible hours. For more information, call 756-6516.

**Softball signups slated**

Intramural Softball registration is still open — sign up today! Semi-pro baseball is also available. All sports open to active duty, reserve component soldiers and family members. For more information call Art Lewis, Hunter Sports Office at 352-6749.

**Hunting and fishing license**

Fort Stewart and Hunter AAF hunting and fishing permits and Georgia State hunting and fishing licenses are sold at the Hunter Skeet Range, Bldg. 8250. A Hunter Education course is required for on-post hunting permit. For more information, please call 352-5916.

**Diceman cometh**

This presentation meets the requirement for OPSEC Security Education — G3 Refresher Training. The Dicceman presents a provocative, uncompromising and even irreverent look at the world of espionage. This briefing is for military, DA civilian personnel and contractors only.  
Ray Semko, the Diceman, will be at Post Theater today at 2 p.m. and tomorrow at 10 a.m.

**TRICARE class**

The next Explanation of Benefit TRICARE class will be held 10 to 11 a.m. Aug. 5 in the Tuttle library. The class will help explain how to read TRICARE statements. For more information, call 692-8724.

**3rd Thursday training**

Services at Winn and Tuttle will be limited today for staff training. Winn will be closed 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and will offer emergency care only during that time. Tuttle will be closed 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Expectant Mothers Group**

No Expectant Mothers Support Group will be held in July. The next meeting will be 9 a.m. Aug. 19 at Club Stewart. The group is open to all expectant mothers whose significant other is deployed. For more information, call 370-6779.

**Bereavement Support Group**

The next Bereavement Support Group meeting will by 7 to 8 p.m. July 8 in the chapel. The group is open to beneficiaries who have lost a loved one. For more information, call 370-6661.

**Exceptional family member**

The next Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment orientation will be 1:30 to 3 p.m. July 24 in Patriot Auditorium.  
Meet other families and learn about other community support services. For more information, call 370-6505.

**“Take Care of Yourself” class**

The next “Take Care of Yourself” classes will be 11 a.m. to noon July 23 at Winn and 10 to 11 a.m. July 23 at Tuttle. The class

gives an overview of how to use the “Take Care of Yourself” book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle. To register for the Winn class, call 370-5071. To register for the Tuttle class, call 368-3048.

**Family reunion support**

Family reunion support is available for families having difficulty adjusting after a deployment. Support is available by appointment or on a walk-in basis. For more information, call 370-6100 or 370-6111.

**Tuttle Army Health Clinic**

Tuttle’s full-service screening is available by appointment only. The one-time appointment will walk the child through each required clinic. Appointments are held from 12:15 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until August 15. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-652-9221.

**Preventive Medicine Relocated**

The Department of Preventive Medicine has relocated to buildings PB473 and PB474, across from Army Community Services. For more information, call 370-5085.

**Coping Support Groups**

The Coping Support Group is for adults having difficulty dealing with the stress in their life. The group meets 9 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday. The Coping Support Group for Children meets 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday for children ages 6 to 9 and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday for children ages 10 to 13. For more information, call 370-6100.

# Early screenings now available

To get a jump on next year’s school health requirements, school health screening services are now available at Winn Army Community Hospital and Tuttle Army Health Clinic for military beneficiaries.  
Children entering the Georgia school system for the first time are required to have the Georgia Certificate of Eye, Ear and Dental screenings as well as the Certificate of Immunization completed and signed by a healthcare provider.  
The required certificates can be obtained from the respective clinics. Remember to bring the child’s medical records, shot

records and identification to the screenings.

**Winn Army Community Hospital  
Eye and Ear screenings**  
Vision and hearing screenings are available by appointment Monday through Friday.  
To schedule an appointment, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

**Dental Screenings**  
Dental screenings on Fort Stewart are available on a walk-in basis at the spon-

sor’s assigned dental clinic.  
• Dental Clinic #1 will hold walk-in hours from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 767-8510.  
• Dental Clinic #4 will hold walk-in hours from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.  
For more information, call 767-8930.

**Immunization Screenings**  
Immunizations and record reviews are available on a walk-in basis.  
Walk-in hours are 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday,

Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday. The clinic is closed until 1 p.m. the third Thursday of the month.

**Tuttle Army Health Clinic**  
Tuttle’s full-service screening is available by appointment only. The one-time appointment will walk the child through each required clinic. Appointments are held from 12:15 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until August 15.  
To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-652-9221.



**FOR ALL YOUR ADVERTISING NEEDS  
CALL 368-0526  
The Frontline**



POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 21-year-old male
- **Charges:** Larceny of private motor vehicle
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 22-year-old female
- **Charges:** Aggravated assault, damaged to government property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 32-year-old male
- **Charges:** Simple assault, damage to government property
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Civilian, 35-year-old male
- **Charges:** Wrongful distribution of morphine, possession of dangerous drugs with intent to distribute, wrongful distribution of percocet
- **Location:** Allenhurst, Ga.
- **Subject:** Lance Corporal, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, open container violation, underage drinking
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 23-year-old male, 24th Support Group
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Family member, 35-year-old female
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 74/55
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 39-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 33-year-old female
- **Charges:** Simple assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Lance Corporal, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Fighting in public place, affray
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Fighting in public place, affray
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, Second Brigade
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunk/disorderly
- **Location:** Richmond Hill, Ga.
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, Second Brigade
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunk/disorderly
- **Location:** Richmond Hill, Ga.
- **Subject:** Private 2, 20-year-old male, Second Brigade
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunk/disorderly
- **Location:** Richmond Hill, Ga.
- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, Second Brigade
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct, drunk/disorderly
- **Location:** Richmond Hill, Ga.
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Criminal trespass

- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant 1st Class, 51-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 23-year-old male
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 56-year-old female
- **Charges:** Theft by shoplifting
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 18-year-old male
- **Charges:** Simple assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 48-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Family member, 27-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving while license suspended, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Lance Corporal, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Drinking underage
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Civilian, 23-year-old male
- **Charges:** Failure to exercise due care
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Failure to appear
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Family member, 34-year-old female
- **Charges:** Reckless driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Following too closely
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 32-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Division Support Command
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 37-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license revoked
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 57-year-old male
- **Charges:** Failure to yield right of way
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 18-year-old male, Second Brigade
- **Charges:** Forgery of a personal check, larceny of private property, larceny of private funds
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Civilian, 31-year-old male
- **Charges:** Communicating a threat (other than telephone), unlawful possession of knife, unlawful possession of weapon, unlawful possession of a pistol/revolver
- **Location:** MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Sturgeon from page 3A

“Because the shortnose sturgeon is endangered it must be protected under federal law. This sturgeon is found in waters on Fort Stewart (the Canoochee River) and in waters adjacent and downstream of the installation (the Ogeechee River),” said Bryce. “For that reason, we are involved in monitoring this population and ensuring that the installation does nothing to negatively affect this fish.”

So that means we can’t hurt the shortnose sturgeon, but why is the post so interested in protecting it?

“Fort Stewart has demonstrated sound stewardship by striving to protect and enhance this fish,” said Bryce. “The installation has led the way in Georgia through its excellent monitoring program and proactive management. As a result of the installation’s hard work and dedicated efforts, Fort Stewart and the Army are highly recognized by and many state and federal resource conservation agencies as a major contributor to the scientific knowledge of this species. More specifically, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service have commended the installation for its shortnose sturgeon conservation program. Through conferences of this nature, the Army is given the opportunity to showcase its superior natural resources program and be recognized as a responsible landowner and good neighbor in Southeast Georgia.”

Bryce said Fort Stewart’s role in contributing to the goals of the conference was an instrumental one, the reasons he gave being:

- It is a large land area that is protected in many ways due to the fact that this land is not overly developed as it is off post (i.e., agriculturally, industrially, and in urban development). The natural habitats found on the installation are largely intact and healthy.
- Because it is a federal entity, we must abide by the laws of the land and that means that and it is responsible to do things right and be a home to land managers who are good stewards of the nation’s resources.
- Because the Army is an action oriented, fighting force trained to tackle obstacles, confront challenges and achieve victory, this mindset transfers to all that the Army does, and that applies to its natural resources management programs. Unlike many agencies that may be stalled by a challenge, the Army sees it through to successful completion and

shows others how it’s done.

But wait, there’s more! The Army itself is also benefiting from the campaign to save the shortnose sturgeon, said Bryce.

“By taking care of its natural resources,” he said, “the Army is able to sustain its mission to train effectively now and in the future. In addition, a healthy environment for wildlife and fish means a healthy environment for the people who live in and around Fort Stewart.”

The conference was well attended by biologists from its hosting agencies and also by representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Research Development Center, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Maine’s Department of Marine Resources, Georgia Southern University, the University of Georgia, Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, North Carolina State University, the University of Maryland, the Hudson River Foundation, the Canoochee Riverkeepers Association, Satilla Management Associates, Environmental Research and Consulting, Inc., and the University of New Brunswick in St. John, Canada.



# Korea – fifty years ago this week

## Truce talks reconvene as ‘Reds’ turn back

Jim Caldwell  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Sgt. Gilbert C. Collier of the 40th Infantry Division earned the Medal of Honor 50 years ago in Korea as a Chinese offensive was driven back and truce talks resumed.

SEOUL, Korea, **July 17-20, 1953** — The South Korean counteroffensive that began yesterday continues to drive Chinese communist troops northward. By July 19, ROK troops they hold the high ground south of the Kumsong River after chasing the Reds back across. The terrain on the north bank is not critical enough to risk more soldiers’ lives. The ROK 6th Infantry Division digs in to hold the line for the rest of the war.

The enemy had gained six miles and deflated the Kumsong bulge in the Eighth Army line above the river, but they had lost about two divisions worth of men doing it. Eighth Army officials estimate that the Chinese suffered 28,000 casualties.

**June 19-20** — A six-man patrol sets out from the 40th Infantry Division line near the Punchbowl in X Corps. Sgt. Collier is the point man on the moonless night, and occasional showers make visibility even worse.

About two miles into no-man’s land, Collier takes a step into thin air, gives an involuntary yell and falls down a 60-foot cliff. Patrol leader, 2nd Lt. Richard S. Agnew, comes forward to investigate why Collier yelled, and he, too, goes tumbling down the cliff. He lands beside Collier.

In addition to scrapes and bruises, Collier suffers a wrenched back that makes it painful to stand. Agnew has a twisted ankle that’s too painful to stand on. They still had their weapons and canteens, and Agnew held onto his radio.

Agnew radios the patrol to get back to their lines before daylight, after failing to convince Collier to go with them. The patrol radioman says they’ll return that night to retrieve them.

The two men realize they can’t just lie at the bottom of the hill until their buddies return, so they start the painful climb up the cliff. Agnew falls once, losing his rifle and radio. Collier, despite the painful back injury, goes back down and helps Agnew back up the steep slope.

As they suffer through the day, each man’s injury worsens. Agnew’s ankle balloons to twice its size. Collier’s back is excruciatingly painful.

After dark falls, they decide to head back to their line.

About 300 yards from their goal, they’re found by a six-man Chinese patrol. Collier screams a warning to the lieutenant.

He fires at the enemy, hitting two. The remainder lobs grenades at the Americans, wounding both. Collier begins crawling away from Agnew, to draw the enemy to him. He shoots until he runs out of ammo. Then the Chinese fall on him, stabbing and beating him with feet and rifle butts, and Agnew can only watch.

Even while he’s being beat over the head with a rifle, Collier manages to draw his bayonet and bury it into one man’s stomach. The other three continue to pound him, but he lashes out and stabs another in the throat.

That’s enough for the last two enemy soldiers, and they run away, leaving Collier pulverized and bleeding.

The rescue team has heard the beginning of the fight and arrives right after the enemy leaves. They get Collier and Agnew back to the aid station. On the way, Agnew tells them repeatedly about Collier’s actions.

Collier has lost too much blood and has sustained fatal injuries from the beating.

Maj. Charles A. Brown, battalion commander, tries to ask Collier about what happened to him, but receives little in reply “Although he was dying, Sgt. Collier kept asking me if Lt. Agnew had been rescued and if he was all right,” Brown says. Collier dies later that night.

His wife will receive his posthumous Medal of Honor in the Pentagon Jan. 12, 1955.

Collier is the last soldier to earn the Medal of Honor during the Korean War.

**July 19-23** — Truce talks reconvene at Panmunjom July 19. With the Chinese latest offensive stopped, the Reds seem ready to arrange a cease-fire.

Lt. Gen. Nam Il, North Korean head of the communist team, has several items yet to settle. South Korea has denied Indian troops permission to enter the country to carry out their duties of caring for the non-communist prisoners who don’t want to go back to North Korea or China. Nam wants to settle that question before the truce is signed.

He also, as was expected, wants to renegotiate the demarcation line.

Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison Jr., U.N. chief delegate, tries to hurry the process along. He tells Nam that the Swedish and Swiss members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, whose personnel will watch the non-communist

prisoners, are ready to begin their duties. Nam will not say when the Polish and Czech teams can be ready.

The cease-fire is set to begin within 12 hours after parties sign the truce agreement.

That afternoon the communists suggest that the chief delegates retire and let staff officers work out the details of the four remaining areas to settle. There is a team from each side determining the demarcation line and the demilitarized zone; where the prisoners from both sides, as well as the anti-communist prisoners will be taken; time when the commissions created by truce will begin operating; and arrangements for signing the cease-fire documents.

Staff officers start working immediately.

On **July 22** ROK President Syngman Rhee releases a statement that he keeps the right to “follow our own course of action” if the political conference that follows a truce does not produce results within 90 days.

The statement also says that he considers written promises made to the U.S. government to be “conditional” on certain promises made by the U.S. government, which have not yet been delivered.

Also on **July 22**, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles tells reporters that Rhee has twice promised in writing to abide by a truce arranged by the United States, even if he doesn’t agree with it.

Peking Radio charges **July 23** that Rhee is trying to “wreck” peace efforts, but that he could only do so with American “connivance” and “encouragement.”

**July 20-22** — U.S. government officials are discussing plans with their Indian counterparts July 20 to fly 2,000-3,000 Indian soldiers to the neutral zone in Korea. They will guard the non-communist U.N. POWs there. On July 22 the U.S. assures the Indian government that its troops will be safe there.

**July 22** — The Defense Department announces that there were 1,026 American casualties in Korea for the week ending July 17. That brings the overall casualty figures to 139,272, including 24,965 dead.

*(Editor’s note: Jim Caldwell is a senior correspondent for TRADOC News Service. Sources are Facts on File, 1953; Truce Tent and Fighting Front by Walter G. Hermes, Office of the Chief of Military History; and Korean War Heroes by Edward F. Murphy, Presidio Press, 1992.)*





## Cancer Treatment Research Foundation

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# Conference allows soldiers, family members to speak out

**Spc. Jennifer J. Eidson**  
USASOC PAO

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Concerned special operations soldiers and their family members met here June 22 - 24 to discuss issues during the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's Army Family Action Plan Conference.

The conference allowed representatives from USASOC and its subordinate commands to address key issues that affect the majority of their soldiers and family members.

During the conference, USASOC leadership was able to hear concerns from its lowest levels, said Valerie Willard, family program specialist for USASOC.

"It is the mechanism for getting those concerns addressed at the appropriate level," Willard said.

Maj. Donnie B. Coleman, family readiness liaison for the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, Riverdale, Md., said it is important to listen to the views of the soldiers and family members at the lowest levels because "little armies make big armies."

"Without the unit, the guys on the ground, those privates and those specialists and their families, there wouldn't be a 'big Army,'" Coleman said.

The most important thing about the conference is that issues are made known, said Patricia Stutts, family readiness group leader for the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, Fort Jackson, S.C.

"These people need to be heard," Stutts said. "They need to be happy in what they do. If the families aren't happy, the soldiers aren't happy."

Doris Chandler, family readiness liaison for 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Carson, Colo., said the confer-

ence allowed everyone to see that no matter what background they came from, they all had similar issues and problems.

"I think it is helpful for the Army, in general, to hear the issues from the grassroots level," said Chandler. "It is a great ... policy for the Army."

Participants were divided up into six groups to discuss topics and issues they felt should be looked at or resolved. Issues ranged from those that could be handled at the unit level, all the way up to some that would cause changes at the Department of Defense level.

Due to the structure of USASOC, members of the conference discussed issues that not only involve active-duty soldiers and family members, but those of the Army Reserve and National Guard as well.

All of the issues are equally important to the soldiers and family members they affect, said Andrea Unruh Sovern, wife of a member of Group Support Company, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky.

"These issues are coming directly from the people who make up the Army," she said. "If those issues become so big that they can no longer be successful in the Army, it could be the families' decision not to stay in the Army."

At the beginning of the conference, Willard said there were more than 100 issues that had been brought forth. At the close of the conference, those issues were narrowed down to what was voted as the six most important issues.

The top issue was the education protection for activated Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers.

The education group said the college investments of reserve and guard soldiers who are deployed are not currently being protected.

They said the soldiers are losing tuition money, financial

aid, scholarship funds and their grade point averages are being affected.

When these situations occur, the group said it is often the soldier who is penalized. If the servicemember does have problems, the group said that might affect the soldier's decision to reenlist.

With each issue brought forth, there is also a recommendation on how to go about fixing the problem. The education group proposed that the Soldier's and Sailor's Civil Relief Act be amended to include financial protection, soldier program placement and the freezing of soldiers' grade point averages.

It is difficult to select the top issues because there is so much variation in the issues, said Nancy Colt, family readiness group leader for 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky.

"There are so many different issues for people that impact their lives, and the quality of life for families," Colt said. "I think in the long run, we improve the quality of life for the soldiers and families. We are their voice."


The concerns that were voted as USASOC's top issues will be forwarded to the November Department of the Army-level conference.

Those issues include additional proficiency pay for static line and military free fall jumpmasters and dive supervisors; a policy creating a civilian education track with the career path, allowing noncommissioned officers within 25 percent of degree completion to finish school; a full time family readiness coordinator for battalions and higher; an amendment to the SSCRA requiring financial institutions to reduce interest rates on debts that occur during mobilizations; and full-time exceptional family member placement case managers who are knowledgeable about multiple medical specialty issues.



I want you to remember that recycling is **mandatory** on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Blue recycling dumpsters have been positioned throughout both installations. Use these dumpsters to deposit the recyclable items that your office, business, or building generates. Help us preserve Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's natural resources by **RECYCLING!** For more information regarding recycling, please call 912.767.8880.





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## LIFE &amp; TIMES

B SECTION

## On Post

## International Day Slated

Army Community Services is looking for volunteers to participate in this year's International Day Celebration slated Sept. 15. Participants may present information, displays and entertainment depicting their heritage, culture and history at the celebration. For more information contact Linda McKnight or Ethel Jemison at 767-5058.

## Swimming lessons

Classes are open to military adults and children, DoD civilians, retirees, National Guardsmen and Army Reservists.

The two-week sessions will be held at Corkan Gym and Bryan Village Pool in July. The cost is \$25 for youth and adults, \$15 for infants and toddlers.

Call 767-2312 to sign up for swimming lessons.

## CYS Central Registration

The CYS Central Registration, Building 443 will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday and Friday by appointment only; 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday by appointment only and all day Wednesday for walk-in. Pick up records from your child's program (SAS, CDC, FCC and YS) prior to update. For more information, call 767-2312.

## ACS Birthday Celebration

Army Community Service is celebrating its 38th birthday, July 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The party is located at the ACS building, 76 Lindquist Ave. There will be free food, entertainment and games.

## Summer Reading Program

Parents with children ages two through 15 can sign their child up for the Fort Stewart Library's Summer Reading Program.

Participants will receive a book bag, bookmarks, reading log and activity sheets upon registration.

The program runs through Aug. 2. For more information, call 767-2828

## Matting and Framing Class

Learn to professionally mat and frame your treasures and personal prints.

Free classes are open to the public.

Pre-registration is required to order necessary supplies.

Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until finished.

New mats and moldings available on special order. Prints available at great prices. Special introductory demonstrations and classes available for all types of groups — FRG, church groups, OSC, ESC and BOSS.

For more information, call RoseMary at 767-8609.

## Off Post

## Summerfest 2003

On August 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the Chamber is seeking participants for the BBQ cookoff, and food and craft vendors. Squeal about the summer fest to all your friends! Great food, live entertainment and kids games. There will also be a 5K road race/ fun run and walk. The race is at 9 a.m. and the fun run/walk is at 8:30 a.m.

For details, contact the Chamber at 368-4445.

*If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.*

## 3ID soldiers celebrate the Fourth



Photos by Spc. Adam Nuelken

(Above) Sgt. Maj. James Brown, G-6 sergeant major, helps out the dining facility by cooking hamburgers and bratwurst. (Right) Bradley Bruce, tries to keep himself from sliding into the drink during a tug-of-war match.

## Spc. Adam Nuelken

3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Soldiers at Baghdad International Airport took time out July 4 for a chance to relax and compete against each other to celebrate Independence Day.

3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers have been deployed since August. July 4 was one of only a few days they have gotten to take some time out of their busy days.

"I think the key is let the soldiers have a good time," Sgt. Maj. Jeff Patterson, G-2 sergeant major, who participated in a July 4th 5k run. "They've been very busy since August, and other than the holidays, this was the only time they really got a chance to relax and enjoy the festivities."

The day was started like most military celebrations — with a 5k run. Initially, T-shirts were going to be given out, but even though the contract fell through, it didn't stop nearly 100 runners from coming out to race as a team, individually, or just run for some extra exercise.

"The run is always a good start to a day," Patterson said, taking a drink of water and wiping away sweat from the run. "I think it's one of the events in the Army we use to

build esprit de corps and cohesion; we work hard together, we play hard together — we run together"

1st Lt. Kurt Cassel, officer in charge of the 5k run and water balloon toss, echoed the sergeant major on the importance of a good start.

"The 4th of July is always a special day, especially for us soldiers while we're over here doing our jobs, so we're trying to give everyone a day off a little enjoyment and try to build a little esprit de corps and cohesion," he added. "And I think a 5k run is a good way to start that off."

During the day, the soldiers participated in horse shoe, volleyball, basketball and tug-of-war competitions as well as dominoes and spades tournaments. In the afternoon, barbecues were held and leaders took their chances in the dunking booth.

"We hope this boosts morale," Cassel explained. "We want them to have a good time, this is all for fun, help celebrate the Fourth while we're over here in a difficult situation, and we want everyone to relax and get out there and be competitive — and hopefully give them a break from everything we've got going on."



## Reach out, touch someone through VTC

## Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The technology once reserved for high-ranking military officials to discuss operational matters via satellite is now available for even the lowest-ranking soldier.

For about a week, deployed soldiers of 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) have been keeping in touch with their friends and family back home through the use of the division's video teleconference system.

Having been deployed for several months now, soldiers are getting their first opportunity to actually "see" how well things are going back home, according to Maj. Gen. Buford Blount, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commanding general.

"I'm just glad we can provide this service to the soldiers. It gives them an opportunity to alleviate some of the worries they have had about their families, and vice versa," Blount said. "So far, we've had about three or four fathers see their newborns for the first time."

Getting the system up and operational took about three weeks, and required a lot of time and dedication from a number of personnel, Blount said.

Overall, the effort was worth it, said Maj. Denton Knapp, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry's executive officer.

"These soldiers have been working hard 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and although their minds are focused on the mission at hand, they are still thinking about home," said Knapp, a Gillette, Wyo., native.

Knapp pointed out that although soldiers have kept in contact through mail, coupled with periodic opportunities to use phones and email, "the VTC is a wonderful vehicle to provide soldiers an opportunity to see and speak with their loved ones.

"To be able to see someone on the other end, that's as close as you can get to being there," Knapp said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Oggs' soldiers recently used the VTC. Oggs, Task Force 4-64 Armor's command sergeant major, said the soldiers truly appreciated having an opportunity to not only talk to, but also see their family and friends.

"To see their loved ones who they haven't seen in more than seven months is a great thing," said Oggs, from Sweetwater, Tenn. "I'll go to any lengths to do what we can to boost the soldiers' morale. The soldiers had to travel an hour from Fallujah to use the VTC, but it was worth it."

Sgt. Adam Pena, a track mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Bn., 15th Inf., got an opportunity to see his wife, Isabell, during his five-minute VTC session. The two last communicated by phone five weeks before Pena's unit left for Fallujah.

"I'm glad to be able to see her — it was definitely worth it," said Pena, a Lubbock, Texas native. "I think (the VTC) it is kind of neat. It helps morale a lot."

Coordination plays a key role in ensuring as many soldiers as possible get the opportunity to use the system, according to Staff Sgt. John Michel, a signal specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 123rd Signal Battalion.

Michel, from Cincinnati, Ohio, operates the video teleconferencing equipment and helps unit representatives quickly resolve any scheduling problems that could possibly come up.

"Time slots are pre-determined and assigned to the units. Soldiers get five to 10 minutes each, depending on how many personnel sign up," he said.

Unit representatives are appointed to stay in contact with family readiness groups in the rear, to

ensure soldiers and family are notified of the unit's scheduled time, according to Michel.

A lot of work takes place behind the scenes to keep the VTC operating on schedule, Michel said. In order to receive a satellite signal in Iraq, the signal must go through four different stations, or 'hops' — two in Germany, and two in the U.S.

"It takes a lot of coordination at each 'hop' to get the signal through at the right time," Michel said. "Sometimes the network timing is off on one end, so all the stations have to work together to remedy that problem."

In all, the success of the VTC took a coordinated effort from a number of people, to include 1st Armored Division, who provided the equipment, Michel said.

While working with his unit representative to schedule his time, one soldier summed the experience up in just a few words.

"Five minutes is better than nothing at all."



Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

Spc. Terry Jones, an armor crewman with B Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, talks to his wife, Charlotte and their son.

## New book gives distant-relationship tips

## Spc. Casandra Bolton

Staff Writer PAO

There is a book that is designed to help people who are in long distance relationships. Shellie Vandevoorde, an Army veteran, military spouse and mother, wrote the book entitled "How to Survive the Long Distance Relationship" for everyone who is going through separations from their loved ones. Whether the loved ones are children away at college or a soldier deployed overseas, this book is designed for everyone, according to

Vandevoorde.

She started writing her book five years ago and finished it right before Sept. 11, 2001.

One of Vandevoorde's close friends expressed the stress that she was dealing with while her husband was deployed.

She was dealing with finances and her children were testing her limits.

"I told her to go to the store and get a book that will help her," said Vandevoorde.

When her friend checked for a book, she called Vandevoorde back

and informed her that there were none.

"I went to the PX and there were no books on it," said Vandevoorde. "They had 'How to be a Ranger', 'How to Read your LES', and there was nothing for long distance relationships." After Vandevoorde found this out, she told her brother. After she explained it to him, he merely told her "Write a book."

"He really believed in me," recalls Vandevoorde.

Vandevoorde wrote her book for everyone who deals with long distance relationships, not just military.

"My friend's husband is a truck driver and she said 'Shellie, this (the book) is really true. We go through this whenever he is about to leave'," said Vandevoorde.

At the time Vandevoorde worked in the investigation field.

"I just looked at it as being an investigation," said Vandevoorde.

The book can be purchased online from [www.whizbang.net/survive](http://www.whizbang.net/survive). Vandevoorde's book is print on demand, which means that it is only printed up as people order it. You can purchase the book or just read the first three chapters online.



# Signs, signs ... everywhere, signs



Photos by Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Coffee-goers can check out the wall at Over Coffee Espresso Café. The wall began in February by the owners who posted a picture of their son-in-law on a wall in the store.

## Businesses eagerly wait for 3ID return from Iraq

Sgt. Sam Hoffman  
Staff Writer

All over town, signs welcoming the returns of 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers are popping up at businesses. They can be spotted as far east as Midway, and north in Savannah.

Many of the signs have messages expressing gratitude or praising the homecoming of the soldiers. Others advertise special rates and discounts available for military personnel.

Over Coffee Espresso Café has not only a sign outside, but an entire wall inside the café dedicated to the deployed soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div.

According to owner Diana Mortensen, customers have a pretty free reign over the wall, placing photos of their loved ones as they deployed. Diana's husband Scott and she provide tacks and tape for the pictures, as well as little American flags, the indicator that a soldier has returned.

"When the soldier comes home, they're putting a flag up by the picture, until the majority of them come home and we can take down the wall," Mortensen said.

The wall began in February fol-

lowing a prayer vigil.

"One of the pastors told everyone to pull out a picture of a relative or someone who was over there. My husband pulled out a picture of our son-in-law, and the next day he put it up on the wall," she said.

Her son-in-law is Sgt. Cy Mulholland, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor. From then, people have poured in to post pictures of their family and friends on the wall.

Wal-Mart Supercenter in Hinesville has also put up a similar display commemorating 3rd Inf. Div. troops in Iraq.

"(Some spouses) had a board out there, and they called me and said 'do you want the board?' And that's how it started," said Asa M. Bailey Jr., coordinator.

Since March, the board eventually became too big to be in front of the bookshelf and was moved to the front where it will be indefinitely, said Bailey.

The store gives markers for anyone to use, who would like to put a message on the boards.

Wal-Mart has many employees with deployed family members, and Sandy Frazier, assistant manager, said that management is doing what-



Castrol Car Care on Frank Cochran Drive offers a free 20-point inspection for military personnel.

ever they can to help, finding babysitters and providing flexible hours.

"We want the families of soldiers to know that we're here and we miss our soldiers, and we've done everything we could to support our Army," Bailey said.

Both, Frazier and Bailey declares that Wal-Mart will be involved with other special events for the soldiers, including Family Readiness Group functions.

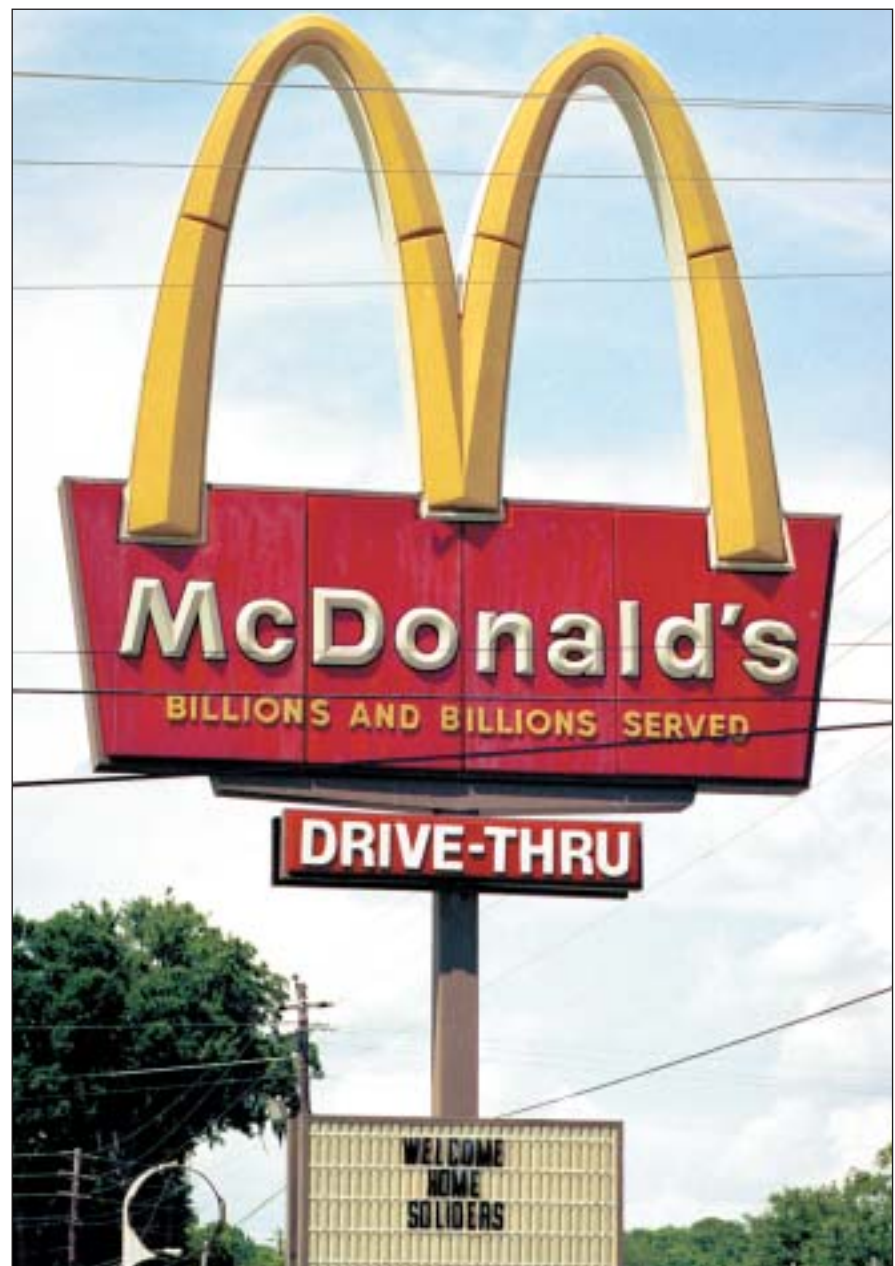
"We're supporting our soldiers 100 percent," said Frazier.



Names and photographs of deployed soldiers are inscribed by family and friends at Wal-Mart's memorial wall. The wall started as a single board in March. In May, Wal-Mart donated \$100,000 to the Army Emergency Relief fund.



Classic 1-Hour Photo on Georgia Highway 84 has a sign outside "blessing the troops." Classic is just one of many businesses to post such signs.



McDonald's franchise owner Gary Dodd is a member of the Military Affairs Committee which says, "what can we do to make Fort Stewart better?"



RadioShack in the old K-Mart plaza off Georgia Highway 84 has a sign letting the 3rd Inf. Div. know they did a "great job."



— CHAPLAIN’S CORNER —

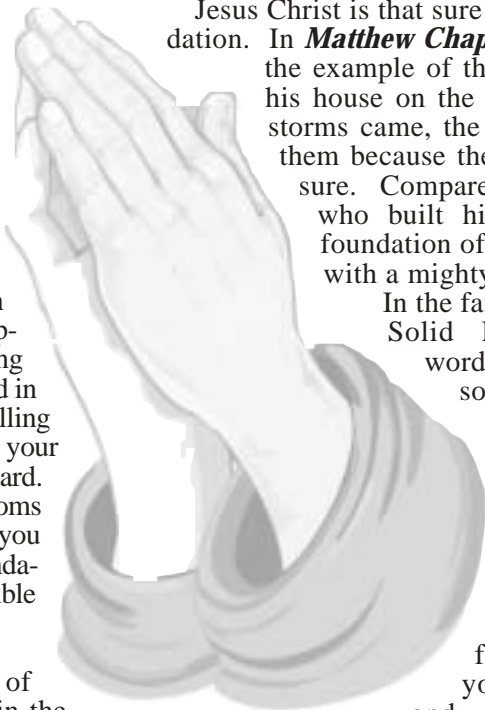
Solid foundation will help solve problems

Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Alberici  
Battalion Chaplain, 110th TF Bn.

*For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:11*

In my first parish I served, I went to visit one of my parish-ioners who had a cosmetically beautiful lakeside home five or six years old. He showed me how cracks had developed in his interior walls. As he went to patch them up, he noticed they kept reap-appearing and that they were growing progressively worse. He then called in an appraiser who gave him this chilling assessment, “The foundation of your house is inadequate and substandard. The cracks in your walls are symptoms of a much bigger problem. Unless you address the problem with your founda-tion, your house will literally crumble down around you.”

Wow!  
Sometimes our lives are full of “cracks.” This may take shape in the crack of anger, the crack of frustration, the



crack of family discord, etc. Could this be a symptom of the bigger problem? Could it be because our foundation is inadequate?

Jesus Christ is that sure and steady founda-tion. In *Matthew Chapter 7*, Jesus gave the example of the man who built his house on the rock. When the storms came, the house withstood them because the foundation was sure. Compare this to the man who built his house on the foundation of sand. It crashed with a mighty crash.

In the famous hymn “The Solid Rock” are the words, “On Christ the solid rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand.” When the storms of life come, as they inevitably do, what is the basis of your foundation? Put your hope, faith, and trust in Jesus Christ, The Solid Rock.



Pet of the Week

Precious, a 10 to 12-week-old gray and white female tabby is the epitome of her name. She is sweet, loving and a joy to cuddle.

If anyone interested in adopting a cat or dog, call 767-4194 or stop by the clinic located at 461 W. Bultman Ave., Building 1180, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.

Worship Opportunities

Fort Stewart		
Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Victory	9 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Victory	7 p.m.
Weekday Mass	Victory	11:45 a.m.
Protestant		
Sunday “Protestant Worship”	Marne	11 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Service	Victory	11 a.m.
Sunday Family Friendly	Vale	11 a.m.
Tuesday Healing Service	WACH	11:30 a.m.
American Samoan		
Sunday Worship	Vale	1 p.m.
Jewish		
Friday Shabbos Service	Marne	6 p.m.
Weekday Kaddish	Marne	1 p.m.
Muslim		
Friday Jum’ah	Bldg. 9182	1:15 p.m.
Masjid (Daily)	Bldg. 9182	5:30 a.m.
Seventh Day Adventist		
Saturday Sabbath School	Vale	9:15 a.m.
Saturday Divine Worship	Vale	11 a.m.
Lutheran		
Sunday Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
Contemporary Service		
Sunday Worship	Marne	6 p.m.
Hunter Army Airfield		
Protestant		
Sunday Service	Post Chapel	11 a.m.

DRINKING



& DRIVING



DON’T MIX





# SPORTS & FITNESS

## On Post

### Sports clinics

The following clinics are available in July.

- Basketball clinic** will be held at Post Gym for ages 7 to 14 at 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., July 14 to 18.
- Cheerleading clinic** will also be held at Post Gym for ages 6 to 12, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., July 14 to 18.
- Soccer clinic** will be held at the Youth Sports Complex for ages 7 to 12 at 5:30 to 7 p.m., July 21 to 31.

For more information call 352-5708 or 352-6075.

### Family fishing rodeo

The next family fishing rodeo will be held at Pond 3, 4 to 8 p.m., July 19. DPW Fish and Wildlife Branch personnel are present at each fishing rodeo to answer questions and give instructions on how to bait a hook, cast a rod, and hook a fish. For more information call 767-5245/8609.

### Basketball courts opened

The Hunter gym's basketball courts are newly renovated and now open.

### Karate-Gju-Ryu Classes

Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays for people five years old and up at the Fort Stewart Youth Center. The fee is \$30 per person. Beginners 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Advanced, teens and adults 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. No classes on Federal Holidays.

### Golf course

Taylor's Creek Golf Course offers Senior Blitz on Thursdays with a 9 a.m. tee off. They also offer a Dogfight Tournament at 7:30 a.m. and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

- Troops Tune Up**, a soldiers free clinic, is held every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- A Ladies Free Clinic** is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- A "Junior Golf Academy"** is scheduled be held during the summer.

Anyone who wants to schedule a fundraising event for *family support groups, unit activities* or a private organization is asked to contact Charlie Dobbertin at 767-2370.

### Pool passes

Pool passes are now available. Call Andy Arrington, DCAS Aquatic Director, at 767-3034 for more information.

### Track and Field Meet

Event will be Friday and Saturday. Registration deadline is today. This meet is limited to 20 teams and 15 players per team. Active duty military, National Guardsmen, Reservists, and retirees are eligible. For information call 352-6749 or 767-8238/8326.

### Driving Range

The putting green is being enlarged from 4,800 sq. ft. to 14,000 sq. ft.. The teeing area and short game practice facility is also being enlarged and renovated. The projected opening date is September 1.

## Off Post

### Beach Challenge

On Aug. 9. Bear Foot Sports presents the first-ever multi-sport, team-only Beach Challenge, pitting teams of four athletes against one another in head-to-head competitions on the beach and in the water.

For more information call Bear Foot Sports at 843-379-3440.

### Savannah Sand Gnats

Every Wednesday, kids 10 and under eat free hamburgers, hot dogs, and fries from 6 to 8 p.m. Take an exciting family night out and visit the Sand Gnats.

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.



Sgt. Raymond Piper

Brent Walters, who has been playing racquetball for nine years, returns a serve from Mike Ray, a former International Racquetball Tour and MPRA World Champion in the Men's Open category for the Team Ektelon Summer Slam held at Newman Gym.

## Taking the prize ...

# Ray wins Ektelon Summer Slam

### Sgt. Raymond J. Piper

Editor

Mike Ray finished first in the Ektelon Summer Slam Racquetball Tournament Friday to Sunday at Newman Fitness Center.

"It always feels good to win. I hit a lot of good shots and walked away with the victory," Ray said.

Ray, a former International Racquetball Tour and MPRA World Champion, defeated Brent Walters, who has been playing racquetball for nine years, in the Men's Open category.

"I didn't serve well and it comes down to who serves the best because ... the goal is to get a weak return to set up your next shot," Walters said.

Ray has been retired from professional play for about four or five years but came out of

retirement to play in the Team Ektelon tournaments at Fort Stewart, said Charles Knight, tournament coordinator.

About 50 people competed in the weekend tournament.

Other winners during the weekend tournament were:

#### Men's A

1st Place John Chretien  
2nd Place Charles Knight

#### Men's B

1st Place Tony Chevas  
2nd Place Larry Ramirez

#### Men's C

1st Place Jim Clark  
2nd Place Matthew Rahn

#### Men's 35+

1st Place Tony White

2nd Place

#### Men's A/B Doubles

1st Place

Arnold Shapiro

Noah Rosner

2nd Place

Michael Kaufman

Neil Cozad

Knight said that Fort Stewart is ideally located for a tournament in the Southeast and has excellent facilities for competition.

"One of my main goals is to raise awareness of the game for soldiers and family members of the game and give them the chance to see the level of play at the professional level," Knight said.

The Fort Stewart Open will be held in September or October. Entry fees and U.S. Racquetball Association membership for servicemembers will be half price.

# Harlem Globetrotters visit Stewart

### Spc. Casandra Bolton

Staff Writer, 372nd MPAD

The crowd clapped hands in unison with the beat of the music as the Harlem Globetrotter Legends performed different tricks with the basketball. Six Harlem Globetrotter Legends, basketball players who are well known for providing the public with a great show as well as good entertainment, visited Newman Fitness Center on Fort Stewart, July 11. They played against the Liberty County All-Stars Basketball Team.

The theme of the show was "Welcome Back Soldiers".

The mission of the Harlem Globetrotters is to deliver a quality basketball show to audiences throughout the United States and internationally. The show is designed to be fun for spectators of all ages.

The Legends that were present were Michael Douglas, Tyron Gainer, Antoine Scott, Larry Coleman, Robert Wallace and Dave Barrett. They also had three honorary Globetrotters. They were Spc. Sandy Rivera, 3rd Military Police Battalion War Fighter Team, Angel Suthphin, Nesmith Chevrolet, and Dr. Dan Cooke, Advanced Chiropractic.

The Globetrotters' operation is professional in all aspects. In addition to having a wholesome entertainment product, they also promote the values of staying in school, staying off drugs and fostering racial harmony.

The Liberty County YMCA and Fort Stewart MWR sponsored the show, which was free and open to the public.

"This is the least we can do to show our gratitude to the military," said Michael Douglas, Harlem Globetrotter Legend.



Spc. Casandra Bolton

Harlem Globetrotter legends practice while waiting to play the Liberty County All Stars Friday in Newman Fitness Center. They put on a free basketball show for all spectators. The theme of the event was "Welcome Back Soldiers".

## Marne Scoreboard

### Aerobics

#### Newman Fitness Center Aerobics schedule

##### Mondays

Latino Rhythm 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
Busy Feet Workout 9 to 10 a.m.  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

##### Tuesdays

Butts and Gutts 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
Basic Training Workout 9 to 10 a.m.  
Cardio-Stepping 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

##### Wednesdays

Caliente 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
Cardio Kick-boxing 9 to 10 a.m.  
Step-kicking 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

##### Thursday

Basic Training Workout 9 to 10 a.m.  
4:30 to 5:30

##### Fridays

"Master C" Workout 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
"Killer Friday" 9 to 10 a.m.  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

##### Saturdays

"Pick Your Poison" 9 to 10 a.m.

#### Hunter Fitness Center Aerobics schedule

##### Mondays — 6 to 7 p.m.

Cardio-Stepping  
Cardio-Kicking  
Buns/Thighs Weights  
AB Work Stretch

##### Wednesday — 6 to 7 p.m.

Cardio-Stepping  
Low Impact  
Jump Rope  
Weights  
AB Work Stretch

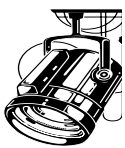
##### Fridays — 6 to 7 p.m.

Fun Fridays  
Party Dance  
Yoga Stretches

Got Scores? Contact the *Frontline* staff at 767-3440 or e-mail [Frontline@stewart.army.mil](mailto:Frontline@stewart.army.mil).



# Volunteer Spotlight



Christina M. Ryle

Christina, a native of Shellman Bluff, Ga., is an American Red Cross volunteer at Tuttle Army Health Clinic.

Ryle said she volunteers to gain experience in a clinical setting. Ryle, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, hopes to start the physician’s assistant program next year.

If you would like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903 or send an email to **Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil**.



# WOODRUFF THEATER

## Jul 17 — Jul 23



Admission for all shows is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children.

Free Showing  
Sunday

### Finding Nemo (G)

Starring: Animated  
Free Showing Tonight  
Marlin desperately searches the sea for his son, Nemo. Little Nemo finds himself in a dentist’s fish tank in Sydney, Australia, with other underwater captives. As Nemo works on a plan to escape, Marlin swims closer but will need more than fins to get into the dentist’s office.  
Run Time: 101 minutes

### Dumb and Dumberer (PG-13)

Starring: Eric Christian Olsen, Derek Richardson  
Free Showing Friday and Saturday  
Set in 1986 when mentally challenged best friends Harry and Lloyd were teenagers, this is the madcap comic tale of their attempt to get out of the “special needs” department and into regular high school life.  
Run Time: 85 minutes

### 2 Fast 2 Furious (PG-13)

Starring: Paul Walker, Tyrese Gibson  
Free Showing Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
Former cop Brian teams up with his ex-con pal Roman to transport a shipment of “dirty money” for a Miami based export dealer.  
Run Time: 108 minutes



## Birth announcements

**June 29**  
**Ahyani Jerice McArthur**, a girl, 6 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Sgt. Antwan Jermaine McArthur and Christina Dorice McArthur.

**June 30**  
**Callie Anne Bennett**, a girl, 5 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dale Gordon Bennett and Kimberly Ann Bennett.

**July 1**  
**Cody Reed Puricelli**, a boy, 7 pounds, 5 ounces, born to Cpl. Louis Michael Puricelli and Sherry Ann Puricelli.

**July 2**  
**Benjamin Rylie Coleman**, a boy, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. James Kenneth Coleman and Lori Coleman.  
**Nicolas David Grace**, a boy, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, born to 1st Lt. Marsha Grace.  
**Liliana Mia Garcia**, a girl, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, born to Spc. Jaime Garcia and Kristen A. Garcia.  
**Charles Jayden Iyahan MacOliver**, a boy, 8 pounds, 8 ounces, born to Spc. Aimiede Ann MacOliver.

**July 3**  
**Celeste Norma White**, a girl, 6 pounds, 15 ounces,

born to Pvt. 2 Ricky L. White Jr., and Jennifer J. White.  
**Dameon Michael Russell**, a boy, 8 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Rodney C. Russell and Sonja Russell.  
**KaTiashannia Alalexicia Garvin**, a girl, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Alton Garvin and Spc. Katrina Garvin.

**July 4**  
**Sebastian Thomas Smith**, a boy, 6 pounds, 15 ounces, born to 1st Lt. David Scott Smith and Shawnee Smith.

**July 5**  
**Christian Gabriel Valdez**, a boy, 8 pounds, 15 ounces, born to Pfc. Michael A. Valdez and Elizabeth H. Valdez.